

# San Quentin News

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## Death Penalty Halted

By San Quentin News Staff

A new roadblock has halted executions in California for at least another year.

Marin Superior Court Judge Faye D'Opal ordered state officials back to square one in creating a new lethal-injection protocol.

The state's 2010 re-designed execution protocol was an attempt to satisfy U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel's finding that the three-drug execution method amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. Fogel suggested that executions should be done with a single drug in order to avoid the unconstitutional dilemma that has held up executions for nearly six years.

"I don't think it is working. It's not effective. We know that," said state Supreme Court Chief

Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye in an interview with the Los Angeles Times.

California voters may have the final say in whether the death penalty is worth its legal and financial difficulties.

Opponents to the death penalty have gathered nearly \$1.2 million for a 2012 ballot measure that would replace capital punishment with life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"I've killed four people for the state of California, and it didn't make anything better for anyone," said one of the measure's supporters, Jeanne Woodford, executive director of Death Penalty Focus. She is a former San Quentin warden and once headed the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.



Official Photo.

(A) Warden Kevin Chappell  
By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

San Quentin State Prison welcomed a new warden after the Acting Warden, Michael Martel, retired after only 10 months on the job.

Prison officials announced that Kevin Chappell, who served as chief deputy warden at Folsom State Prison, took over as acting warden for California's oldest prison effective Jan. 3.

Warden Chappell has a lengthy history with the De-

## Warden Chappell Takes Over at S.Q.

partment of Corrections and Rehabilitation, starting in 1987 when he worked as a correctional officer at Folsom State Prison. Chappell rose through the ranks, eventually gaining the associate warden position at the department's head office in Sacramento before going to Folsom.

Chappell graduated from the University of California at Davis and volunteers as a youth basketball coach, according to the Marin Independent Journal.

The appointment comes when the state is downsizing its prison population to comply with a federal court order. Currently, San Quentin is in transition from a reception center to an almost complete mainline prison. The conversion, and subsequent influx of inmates, has resulted in a slew of complaints by prisoners housed in the old reception

center building (West Block) without power or television reception.

The new warden will also have to contend with the nation's largest and growing Death Row, resulting from a court-imposed injunction by U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel, which has halted executions since 2006.

The most recent hurdle against San Quentin's executions is a ruling from Marin Superior Court Judge Faye D'Opal, who found that prison officials failed to consider alternatives to the lethal injection of three drugs used to execute prisoners.

This is the seventh San Quentin warden since 2004. Chappell follows Martel, who held the position for 10 months, and Vince Cullen, who vacated the position in 2011.

## Limited Three Strike Initiative

By San Quentin News Staff

Most imprisoned three-strikers will not be re-sentenced if voters approve the Three Strikes Reform Act, now gathering signatures to qualify for the November 2012 election, analysts say.

The measure is thought to target prisoners whose third strike was non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual.

Stanford University law professors David Mills and Michael Romano drafted the language for the ballot measure and estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 prisoners would be eligible for re-sentencing. However,

data obtained from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) last December suggests the real number is much lower.

The data shows that 4,501 three-strikers are convicted for non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual crimes. However, 3,187 of them have prior convictions termed "crimes against persons," such as murder, robbery, and many sex offenses – making them ineligible for re-sentencing under the ballot measure. That leaves 1,314 third-strikers who have no prior "crime against persons" on their records. But, if any of the 1,314 have certain gun, drug, or gang involvement

prior convictions, they will be ineligible for re-sentencing.

The measure excludes all second-strikers from re-sentencing.

The third strikers eligible for re-sentencing would still have to ask a judge to determine whether they pose an unreasonable risk to public safety, before their life sentence would be lifted.

"The language in the proposed Three Strikes Reform Act seems intended to open the door to the broadest possible consideration of evidence regarding the prisoner's future dangerousness," said Jonathan Simon of Berkeley Law. "The wide array of in-

See Three Strikes on Page 4

## Bill Limits Jailhouse Informant Testimony

By San Quentin News Staff

Gov. Jerry Brown signed two pieces of legislation that will significantly impact those behind bars, and a third that will provide aid to undocumented high school students.

Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) authored SB 687, which restricts the use of uncorroborated testi-

mony by jailhouse informants in criminal cases. The use of informant testimony has been identified as the leading cause for wrongful convictions in capital cases, according to a 2004 report examining California's justice system.

Mike Davis (D-Los Angeles) authored AB 420. It requires that prisoners be counted in their

home districts for redistricting purposes.

Gil Cedillo (D-Los Angeles) authored AB 131, which makes undocumented students who have attended a California high school for three years or who have graduated from a California high school eligible to receive financial aid, if they apply for legal immigration status.

California Supreme Court Justices

## Court Defines Evidence Standard for Lifer Parole

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

A new California Supreme Court decision clarifies the scope and proper application of the "some evidence" standard used by courts to review parole suitability determination.

The Supreme Court reversed a decision by the 4th District Court of Appeal that found the Board of Parole Hearings had improperly denied parole to Richard Shaputis at a 2009 parole hearing.

The Supreme Court found that the board's decision denying parole to Shaputis was based on a long history of domestic violence, and his inadequate insight as well as his failure to accept responsibility for his crime.

The Supreme Court found that "the paramount consideration for both the board and the governor...is whether the inmate currently poses a threat to public safety."

The decision made clear that reviewing courts may overturn a decision by the board or governor when the evidence only leads to a conclusion that the inmate no longer presents a risk to public safety.

The Supreme Court found that the board's decision denying parole to Shaputis was based on a long history of domestic violence, and his inadequate insight as well as his failure to accept responsibility for his crime.

The Dec. 29, 2011 decision is *In re Richard Shaputis on Habeas Corpus*, Case No S188655.

The Supreme Court affirmed

# Oregon Author Visits S.Q. Writing Group

By San Quentin News Staff

Noted author Keith Scribner says he's gained new insights into the human spirit by two visits to San Quentin Prison.

"I've felt on both of my visits to San Quentin that the group is more engaged and thoughtful than nine-tenths of the other groups I work with," he said in an interview.

*I believe in the power of literature, poetry, and all art to allow us to know ourselves better, to make us stronger and deeper.*

"Your close attention to language, story, character, and the keen desire and passion the men have for becoming better writers and telling their stories isn't just refreshing to me - it's a thrill."

Scribner is an associate professor at Oregon State University who visited San Quentin's Arts in Corrections creative writing class.

"I believe in the power of literature, poetry, and all art to allow us to know ourselves better, to make us stronger and deeper, to elate and heal us. A lot like the power of love. It works on us from both directions - as we read or experience great art, and also as we create our own. I



Author Keith Scribner

hope that by visiting I can be of some service in bringing this to their lives," he commented.

"It's a privilege for me to meet you, hear your stories, and come to know about your lives."

Scribner's most recent novel is *The Oregon Experience*. His previous novels are *Miracle Girl* and *The GoodLife*.

## Wilkerson's 2012 Calendar a Hit

By Richard Lindsey  
Journalism Guild Writer

To the delight of many, on the first of January the eagerly awaited San Quentin calendar was once again proudly displayed on walls all around the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). It's regarded as a prized acquisition by many of the department's employees.

The calendar had been produced by San Quentin's vocational print shop for many years, but in 2009 the print shop was indefinitely closed due to budget cuts. Since then, former print

shop instructor John Wilkerson, with the support of successive wardens, continued the long-standing tradition.

Many of Wilkerson's former students hope the print shop will one day reopen, although there is no current plan for that to happen. Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, a former print shop student, calls Wilkerson a "master printer." Richardson commented, "I actually got a trade from Mr. Wilkerson. He's the best instructor I ever had."

The print shop's closure has not deterred the efforts of Wilkerson to produce the coveted

calendar. Annually, in November, Wilkerson, and a crew of volunteers from the San Quentin News labor among the dusty printing presses of the closed print shop to prepare them for production of the following year's calendar.

This year Wilkerson, Larry Snyder of San Quentin Television, and a crew of inmate volunteers produced 10,000 calendars for San Quentin to distribute throughout each of CDCR's 33 prisons.

The calendar was designed by Aly Tamboura of San Quentin News and incorporated a pic-

# Volunteer Chaplain On Transformation

By Kenneth R. Brydon  
Journalism Guild Writer

"I never expected to meet the type of men I ended up meeting," said Mike Bonnel about prisoners he encounters at San Quentin as a volunteer. "There are a lot of people whose hearts God had touched, just like me."

After 29 years as a firefighter, he now enjoys a slower pace by serving San Quentin prisoners. "I always liked helping people," he said of his life then and now.

Bonnel oversaw five firehouses as a Battalion Chief Commander in the San Francisco Fire Department. He was instrumental in writing procedures for high-rise structure fires.

His involvement with San Quentin goes back to the '70s when he and his wife, Linda, visited prisoners under the M-2 Sponsor program.

M-2 was a faith-based program that provided visitors to prisoners who otherwise would have no visitors.

"When I first heard that he was going out to San Quentin, I wasn't too sure about it. But he loves people, and likes to fill that place of helping those people who others don't want to help," said Linda.

Mike was also involved in the Cell-to-Cell Ministry, which primarily brought religious services to the prisoners in the reception center.



File Photo

John Wilkerson and crew in back of the printing press

ture of one of the historic wall murals found in South Dining Hall. Alfredos Santos, who was

a San Quentin prisoner during that time, painted the murals between 1953 and 1955.

## Inmates Cheer Patten University's Annual Open Mic Event

By San Quentin News Staff

Christmas Eve's annual open mic night brought out "a lot of hidden talent in San Quentin," said prisoner Ray Richardson. The prison's Protestant Chapel served as the venue for over 20 original acts, including slam poetry, comedy, and musical performances, performed by new and familiar faces.

Emcee Jonathan "JW" Wilson opened with a reading of Will You Die For Me Black Man, a poem about the historical plight of African-Americans.

Angel Falcone, accompanied by Joe Mason on guitar, did a musical comedy bit, sounding something like Adam Sandler. Their ditty brought laughter throughout the audience as its esoteric prison jokes contrasted the benefits of obtaining a college degree with the frustrations of being incarcerated.

E. "Phil" Phillips' slam poetry sifted through the chaotic and unpredictable aspect of living in prison.

One of San Quentin's most-talented hip-hop artists, Henry "MC" Montgomery, returned this year with a new addition. He and his friend "Nate" entertained the audience with a peppy piece that painted an optimistic view of the future.

Cornelius "Dicky" Wigfall followed MC with an ode critical of materialism. Dicky's encouragement for self-control resonated through the audience in Don't Let 'em Push Your Button.

Mike Tyler said he has been coming to open mic since 2004, but this was his first time performing. He read a poem inundated with seriousness and humor, called Where I'm From, in which he gave his perspective on growing up in rural California.

Adam Verdoux dedicated his musical piece to the teachers and administrators who venture inside prison to educate incarcerated students. Its bright rhythmic sound was reminiscent of a Disney instrumental in the movie Fantasia.

Troy Williams recited a poem he wrote while in county jail, prior to his conviction. As Williams read, the audience listened quietly to the sad words of estrangement of a father from his child.

Antwon Brown's poem, Forgive Me Not, gave insight to how corruption influences youngsters and can lead them to be incarcerated.

The hit of the night came from one of San Quentin's most-talented musical groups, Neu Dae, which features Richard Napoleon Brown, Rico Rodgers, Darryl Buckhana, and Darryl Farris. They treated the audi-

ence to two new gospel songs, I Heard Your Voice and I Can Feel Jesus

Jimmy Carlin read a philosophical poem that chronicled building of the Watts Towers in Los Angeles.

G. Wesley's poem was a birthday present to his sister, Teresa, who supports him "100 percent."

Humphrey read a poem that described how Islam saved him and made him right with God, which allowed him to "let go of the bad things that led me to prison."

D'Lafayette's poem, "Through the Words of Our Ancestors," brought perspective of thought and belief systems.

A new arrival at S.Q., Williams, read a poem about self-understanding and recognizing himself and the meaning of his life.

Gary "Malachi" Scott did a

hip-hop piece, I Gotta Be Me. It communicated the message that self-image and self-esteem are derived from the individual, not peer pressure.

Rafael Colex dedicated a poem to the innocent people in prison, who must go through the same trials and tribulations that the lawfully imprisoned must endure: "What are the origins of human kindness, Born from grief and pain, Against the hardships, We strive - then we rise, Out of the ghettos - Free from the prisons, Into a mastery of life."

Prison University Project (PUP), part of Patten College in Oakland, sponsors the event. It allows prisoners to express themselves to their friends and an audience of community volunteers. PUP is directed by Dr. Jody Lewen and offers access to higher education to hundreds of San Quentin prisoners.

# Out of Prison After 33 Years Behind the Wall

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

After spending three decades incarcerated in California's toughest prisons, Nathaniel Rouse paroled from San Quentin with a message of hope through perseverance.

Nathaniel Rouse was sentenced to the California Department of Corrections when there were 13 prisons in the state. Today there are 33 prisons and great changes are still on the horizon within the prison system. "I've been incarcerated for 32 years, from 1978 to November

2011, and I've been here at San Quentin since April 13, 1993," Rouse said. Rouse, whose Muslim name Abdul Shahid Adil means "Just," has seen several changes in the prison system.

"There is less tension here between African-Americans, whites and Hispanics," he said. "Here you can intermingle with other nationalities as you would on the streets." He credits his positive transformation to the San Quentin programs in which he participated, including Trust Fellows, Impact, Alliance for Change and Restorative Justice. "These programs succeed



Nathaniel Rouse

thanks to San Quentin's numerous outside volunteers, proactive correctional officers and prison

staff who sponsor groups," he said.

He credited Counselor C. Grant and Capt. S. Robinson, who sponsor San Quentin groups, and former Warden Jeanne Woodford. "Woodford understood men had to have more than \$200 upon their release to change them," said Shahid. "They had to have an education and Woodford was proactive in keeping programs alive."

He said the San Quentin educational environment should be expanded to all 33 prisons. "It should be the same in all institutions, but by design; it's not."

Shahid will be working with Vernell Crittenden for R.E.A.L. Choices (Reaching Expanding Adolescent Lives), a San Quentin program that mentors troubled youth. For 25 hours a week, he will tutor and mentor kids, teaching them the power of making positive choices. "For a person leaving prison, education is the key for a successful transition back into society--not merely academic, but a social education," he said. "That social education is our being in contact with society as a partnership," said Shahid.

## Two Key Personnel Depart From the Prison University

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's Prison University Project will lose two of its most valuable administrators.

They are David Cowan, who was assigned to the Prison University Project (PUP) clerk position in 2009, and Amy Roza, who came to San Quentin as a PUP volunteer in 2009 and became its program director in 2010.

Patten University accredits the PUP program at San Quentin. It's California's only on-site prison college program campus.

On Dec. 1, 2011, Roza announced that she will be transitioning from the college program at San Quentin in mid-January, just prior to the start of the spring 2012 semester. "I am extraordinarily grateful for this time volunteering and working with the college program. I have learned a tremendous amount from collaborations with faculty, in my work with San Quentin staff, and most of all, from our students."

Roza indicated that she would stay in California. She said she might share her future plans with the college program shortly.

Roza is originally from New York. While working at the Center for Court Innovation as the director of Youth and Family Services, she designed and led prevention and intervention programs for criminal court-involved families.

Roza also volunteered by teaching and organizing other volunteers for the Prison Education Initiative—a group of educators leading academic classes at New York City's Riker's Island jail.

David Cowan earned his associate's degree from Patten University in 2007.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to work with PUP. The teachers were a great example for me," said Cowan. He was a role model for many of the men at San Quentin and considers "being helpful" as his greatest achievement. An avid volley-



David Cowen

ball player, Cowan was president of Alliance for Change and a member of many groups including the San Quentin T.R.U.S.T., Project CHOICE, and Reaching Beyond the Walls.

Cowan paroled from San Quentin last December.

Cowan, 43, now lives in San Francisco and is working for PUP—the first parolee to be hired at the non-profit organization. He also plans to enroll at San Francisco State University to earn his degree in public policy.

After serving time at other prisons, including Soledad and California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo, he was transferred to San Quentin in 2002. He served almost 23 years on a 25-to-life sentence.

## Volunteers: A Key To Rehab

By Richard Lindsey  
Journalism Guild Writer

California's recidivism rates remain among the highest in the country, but a majority of prisoners are not assigned to programs designed to address their criminality.

Prison officials tracked all offenders released during fiscal year 2006-07 for three years to determine if they returned to prison. Sixty-five percent were back in custody.

Part of the solution, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), is to require that prisoners be assigned to a job or participate in an educational program. However, under existing institutional regulations, prisoners cannot leave jobs to participate in a volunteer rehabilitation program.

In 2005, legislation was passed recognizing that volunteer rehabilitation programs are "an important component of an overall strategy" to "reduce inmate recidivism."

The legislation encouraged CDCR to provide prisoners rea-

sonable access to volunteer programs because it would reduce "violations of prison rules...prison costs, property loss and harm to victims."

However, CDCR has not changed its work rules to allow prisoners access to any volunteer programs that would gain the benefits of the 2005 legislation.

Currently, CDCR reports it offers substance abuse programming to roughly 8,600 of its 135,000 inmates and educational programs to around 37,000.

San Quentin is distinct among California's 33 prisons, providing over 70 rehabilitation programs staffed by over 3,500 volunteers from community-based organizations. Mathew Cate, CDCR secretary, has been quoted as saying he would like to implement the San Quentin model in all of the state's prisons.

A recent state report says if "rehabilitation programs are not available that the prisoners need to change their lives, and reentry plans not prepared, recidivism rates will continue to be the highest in the country."

## Foundation Seeks to Reduce Prisoner Recidivism

By Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer

Two top officials of the Columbia Foundation conducted an exploratory visit to San Quentin Prison recently, looking for ways to help prisoners prepare for a positive life.

The foundation seeks to reduce recidivism and the number of those imprisoned in California. It does this through "second chance" education programs for juveniles and adults who are or have been incarcerated. It also documents the benefits of programs in terms of public safety, tax savings, and community healing.

Visiting San Quentin were Board Member Madeleine Russell-Shapiro and Executive Director Susan Clark. They were guests of Prison University Project (PUP) Director Jody Lewen.

The purpose of their visit was to understand PUP's activities and assess the quality of the college program. Clark inquired into the criteria for attending PUP classes. It was explained that the primary requirement is having a high school diploma or GED.

Russell-Shapiro asked about the San Quentin News staff and what impact, if any, PUP had on their lives. Each staff member

professed that their main goal for joining the newspaper was to become better writers. They were effusive in crediting PUP with giving them the fundamental skills of developing their abilities.

The men stated, to one degree or another, without PUP's help they would never have been able to afford the cost of the education they were getting, much less earn a degree through the program. They also expressed gratitude to Lewen for her efforts to bring higher education into San Quentin, along with the personal influence she had on each of their lives. They

expressed the positive ripple effect that education has had not only on their lives, but also on the lives of their family and loved ones.

According to the Society of Human Resource Management, 73 percent of inmates that achieve an associate of arts degree or above are less likely to become recidivist, more likely to find better employment opportunities, and leave their lives of crime behind them.

Columbia Foundation is a philanthropic organization that began in 1940 by Russell-Shapiro's mother, Madeleine Haas Russell, and her brother, Wil-

liam Haas. The foundation has long-standing interests in world peace, human rights, and the environment, cross cultural and international understanding have evolved to reflect current conditions and opportunities.

The Columbia Foundation currently has three program areas: arts, human rights, and food and farming. The goals are to support art as a way of enriching life experience; to increase the sustainability of farming; and help protect basic human rights, economically, socially, culturally, civilly and politically.

## EDUCATION CORNER

# Gary Shimel Speaks On Prison Education

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

"Educating the incarcerated is vitally important," said Gary Shimel. "The greatest safety that we have to offer society is men who have come out of prison with a G.E.D. or college education. They are more likely to better their lives." Shimel teaches K-12 classes at San Quentin State Prison.

He has been with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) nearly 14 years. "Before I came here I taught in Korea for a little over a year, I also have experience teaching Kindergarten here in California."

When asked how CDCR could improve their education of people in prison? Shimel said each institution must show their incarcerated residents that education is there for them; the de-

partment needs to think outside the box.

"We need to build a trust between ourselves and the residents held inside CDCR," said Shimel. "My vision of education for CDCR would be that we do everything in our power to help them achieve their educational goals to better their lives."

"I taught pre-release when they cut the program," Shimel said. "We lost a lot of amazing teacher's and friends, Chris Wittek, Diane Searle, John Wilkerson, Marcie Ficarra, Phil Leonida and Ms. Sufi."

"It's all about education and my teaching is never limited to inside these walls," he said. "For me education is the pinnacle of life because I've seen men change that have killed people. I've seen miraculous changes and many of the men who leave these walls will be teachers too."

## Medical Care: Your Right to Choose

By Dr. Elena Tootell,  
Chief Medical Officer

### Medical Care: Your Right To Choose:

It is your legal right to choose the kind of medical care you want.

#### Advance Directive

This is a form that lets you choose the kind of medical care you want if you have a life-ending illness and/or are too sick or injured to communicate. You may have heard of this form called by the name of a Living Will.

You can continue to use this same form when you leave prison. It is a way for you, and everyone, to exercise their health care rights.

#### Why Is This Important?

- Unless you fill out an Advance Directive your wishes may not be known or honored by the medical team.
- It communicates your wishes if you are too sick or injured to tell your doctor or nurse.
- You can choose someone you trust to make decisions for you if you are unable.
- It empowers you to make your own decision about what you want for end-of-life care.
- Those who care for you will not have to guess what you want if you are too sick to tell them.

#### What If I Change My Mind?

You can change your mind at any time. Just change the form and tell those that care for you about your changes. Make sure to bring the form to have it signed by your primary care provider and placed in your medical record.

# S.Q. Welcomes New Chaplain

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Mardi Ralph Jackson has been appointed San Quentin's Protestant chaplain, the first African-American female Protestant chaplain at the prison's Garden Chapel. She takes over a position that has been vacant since Morris Curry resigned 20 months ago.

### *My vision is to see souls come to Christ*

Pastor Jackson was the chaplain for a juvenile facility in Norwalk for 9 1/2 years. That facility was closed.

Prior to becoming a chaplain, Ms. Jackson volunteered for five years in prison ministry working with rehabilitation for at-risk youth.

She is a member of the Hillside Tabernacle Church (Church of God in Christ) in Altadena, Calif. where she was part of the ministerial staff. She attended Sonoma State University and California State Los Angeles, where she studied political science.

"My vision is to see souls come to Christ," she said. "Incarcerated men are God's creation, created in his image, and in spite of our circumstances, can change."

She said her hope is to see men in blue become more committed and God conscious.

Her father, Bishop Leon Ralph, led her to Christianity. She reported he was a guest minister at San Quentin in the 1980s and was a former member of the state Legislature.

She will oversee a unique Protestant Chapel program, the Garden Chapel Christian Fellowship, the formal name of the San Quentin church. It is chartered under the American Evangelical Christian Churches denomination.

It has a missions department (Reaching Beyond The Walls) that sponsors children from other countries. It also has an educational ministry with 27 classes; nine licensed and ordained inmate ministers, and a Christian leadership program sponsored by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pastor Jackson said she looks forward to facing challenges as she adapts from the juvenile system to the adult prison system, and addressing the needs of the congregation composed of a variety of denominations.

## California Losing Prisoner Firefighters

By San Quentin News Staff

One of the major unintended consequences of realignment is loss of more than 1,500 critically important prisoner forest firefighters.

For more than 60 years, California has used nonviolent prisoners to clear brush and fight fires. Those eligible are well-behaved nonviolent offenders serving time for such crimes as burglary, drug possession and welfare fraud.

"When things get busy, it's the first thing we run out of," said Andy McMurry, deputy director of fire protection for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, told The Los Angeles Times.

The Rural Fire Protection Working Group has been studying the issue of how realignment

will affect the number of firefighters available to California's 39 prisoner fire camps. Many of the men would wind up in county jails instead of state prison fire camps.

State officials plan to charge counties \$46.19 a day for each prisoner they send to fire camps – which is more than the sheriffs expect to spend to keep them in jail. For example, under realignment the state is giving Solano County about \$21 a day for each prisoner housed in its jail.

On average, it costs over \$150 a day to incarcerate each of California's prisoners.

The 4,500 camp prisoners are paid \$1.45 a day plus \$1 while they are on a fire line. They account for nearly half of the state's wildland firefighters. It would cost about \$100 million a

year to replace them with civilian firefighters. The crews spend about eight million hours a year on conservation and community service projects for state, federal and local government agencies when they are not fighting fires.

The number of prison firefighters is expected to drop by nearly 40 percent next year, according to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which operates the program jointly with Cal Fire.

To avoid the problem, state prison and fire officials are working with local governments on a training program for county prisoners.

Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries, R-Riverside, told the LA Times that maintaining inmate firefighting ranks is critical to public safety.

## Court Rules Parole Can't Be Denied Solely Based on Past

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

The parole board or the governor cannot deny parole based primarily on a prisoner's past, a California appeals court has ruled.

The 6<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeal held that it was inappropriate for the governor to reverse a parole decision for Johnny Lira in 2008 based upon 1980 factors. They were cited by the prison psychologist and used by the governor to reverse the parole board's decision to grant him parole.

The court ruled that in light of the age of the historical factors and Lira's "lengthy and undisputed record of rehabilitative behavior," these factors show that Lira no longer poses an unreasonable risk of danger to the public.

The court also ruled that Lira was entitled to credit toward his parole period for the time he spent in prison following the governor's erroneous reversal of his parole grant.

The case is *In re Johnny Lira on Habeas Corpus*, cite as DJ-DAR 17446, No. HO36162.

## Three Strikes

*Continued from Page 1*

formation invited, and the broad discretion given to the court, makes it hard to know who these (cases) will proceed."

Simon noted that district attorneys "will be able to introduce evidence from the original trial record."

He said prisoners "should expect to and be prepared to introduce every evidence of their own prison record available to them, including participation in programs, educational opportunities, testimonials from staff, educators, and community members, hopefully with the assistance of counsel."

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**SAS URBAN SURVIVAL HANDBOOK**  
(By John Wiseman) Practical handbook on coping with the pitfalls of an urban environment.



**DARK HARBOR** (By Stuart Woods)  
Hot intrigue erupts when Stone and Holly hookup and unravel the twists in CIA agent's suicide.

### RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbons progressing downward to one: 

Responses which are two ribbons or less are not recommended reading.

## Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Which of the following words is different from the others, and why?

**THEFT, WAIL,**

**GROSS, LAKE, MILE**



Congratulations to Anthony Gallow and Gilbert Mendez for winning December's Puzzle. Honorable mentions to: Johnny Cipistrano, J.L. Crummel, Skylar Deleon, , Gary Grimes, , R. Luna, Chris Schuhmacher, Brasure Spencer, and Bill L. Suff who also answered the puzzle correctly. December's Answer is "E."

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Journalism Guild Writer

Native Americans from various tribes have launched a march from California to Washington, D.C. to bring awareness to the plight of Leonard Peltier. He is a Lakota and Cree Indian who was charged with aiding and abetting the murder of a federal officer at Wounded Knee, South Dakota in 1974.

Throughout his incarceration, Peltier has maintained his innocence.

The march began Dec. 12, 2011 at Alcatraz and the marchers expect to arrive in the nation's capital by May 18, 2012. They intend to petition Congress and the president for clemency for Peltier.

Peltier has been in federal detention for 38 years.

## Snippets

**N**ative Americans represent one percent of the United States' population; however, they encompass half of the languages and cultures of the nation.

**E**dison invented the tattoo gun in 1876, and patented it as the Stencil-Pens. The device was originally used as an engraving machine.

**W**eddings can be expensive. The most costly on record is the wedding of Sheik Rashid Bin Saeed AD Maktoum to Princess Salama in Dubai. Their May 1981 marriage cost a whooping \$44 million.

**Y**o-yos are derived from a hunting tool of a Filipino tribe. The orb was used to stun prey; the twine to trip. The weapon was turned into a toy in the 1920s by an American businessman.

**E**lder tree wood, tradition says, was used to construct the cross on which Jesus was crucified. In a strange twist of fate Judas, who betrayed Jesus, hung himself from an elder tree, according to tradition.

**A**ntarctica's interior receives so little precipitation that it is considered the largest desert in the world. Antarctica also is the driest, coldest continent with the highest average elevation.

**R**ats can live without water longer than camels can.

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

5	2	1	9	3	4	8	6	7
9	4	7	1	8	6	3	2	5
6	3	8	2	5	7	4	1	9
7	9	6	8	1	5	2	3	4
3	5	4	6	9	2	1	7	8
1	8	2	4	7	3	9	5	6
4	6	3	7	2	8	5	9	1
2	7	9	5	4	1	6	8	3
8	1	5	3	6	9	7	4	2

## Tech Tips for Appliances

This is the first in a series of columns to help with preventable damage to your personal appliances. This edition deals with headphones, adaptors, and hot pots.

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

The cords in our appliances are made of copper, a soft metal that allows the cord to bend, stretch and break. Improper storage is the main cause for failure in wires for headphones, adaptors and hot pots.

Break the habit of wrapping the cord *tight* around your appliance. That stretches and breaks the cheap tiny copper wires inside. The solution: loop cords loosely for storing.

Some headphone cords get stiff from natural body oils from hands and cheeks getting into the vinyl. The exception is Sony's silicone-coated wires. Covering new vinyl cords with tape or sa-

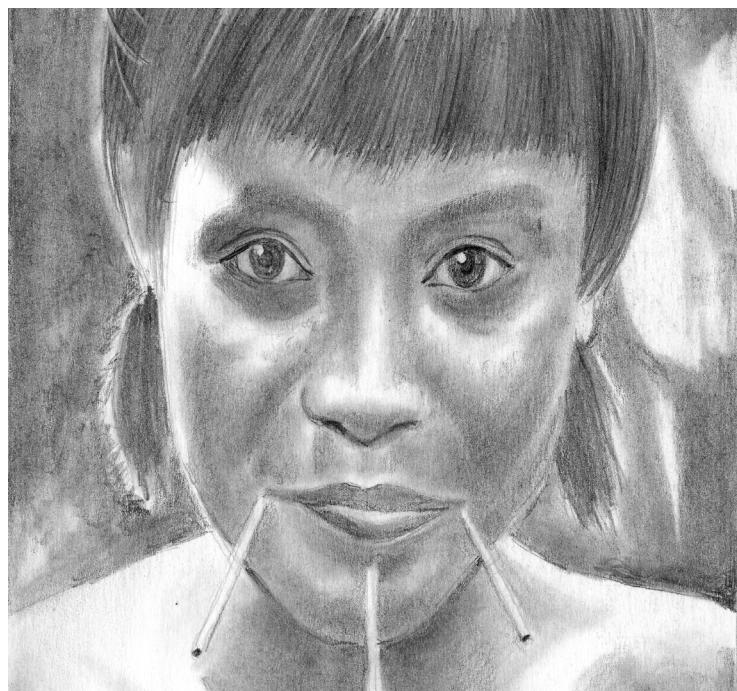
ran wrap near the cheeks looks hokey, but keeps them flexible. Also, gently washing the cord with warm water and shampoo keeps the bodily oil from building up.

While exercising, ear buds get sweaty inside and the magnet rusts. Repetitive movement while you're running stresses the wire at the plug. Rubber band a loop of wire near the plug to move the stress point and swinging slack. If you have a pair of earphone cup Koss CL-20, grab the sides of the *band* to take them off and on.

Turning your headphones up loud can cause the ringing tinnitus, which lasts a lifetime.

Wrapping a folded towel around your hotspot helps it heat up faster.

You can send questions to CSI, Circuit Scene Investigators in care of the San Quentin News. Stay in tune.



Featured artwork of R. Sanchez

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

			1		6	8	5
6					8		1
1	8		5		6		
8				4	7		5
4						2	
7		1	6			3	
	2				5	9	
3		6				4	
5		2		9			

# SPORTS



Chris Schuhmacher serves to his opponent

Official Photo

## Filmmaker Rex Miller Interviews Tennis Team

The San Quentin tennis team offers prisoners a unique opportunity to connect with the outside community, filmmaker Rex Miller discovered after a return visit with the players. Miller, under contract with the Tennis Channel, had filmed the team's exhibition match against one of the world's top doubles team, the Bryan brothers, in September, and came back for a week in early January to interview the players for an upcoming documentary.

He captured a wide range of perspectives about tennis and about life in San Quentin. "I discussed why I was in prison and why it is important to be able to play sports in prison," said team member Chris Schuhmacher. "We are people who are going back into society."

Playing tennis with people from the outside "enables us to socialize with other people and teaches us values," he added. "We enjoy splitting up the teams because it removes the 'us versus them' attitude. It gets us ready for society."

The players know they are fortunate to have the opportu-

nity. "The difference between San Quentin and other prisons is it has lots of programs, and we're able to intermingle with members of society," said player Henry "MC" Montgomery. "We get to play the best players in the world and colleges. We receive training from professionals."

They're also hoping to extend their team spirit beyond the court. "On the surface, the perception of the tennis team is that we are a happy family," said Orlando Harris. "However, this is not the case. Rarely do we interact with one another after we leave the tennis court. We are attempting to change this attitude. We are supposed to be one team, promoting unity and camaraderie."

Miller said the time he spent with the team changed his perspective on prisoners. "Things aren't always what they seem," he said. "What is interesting is peeling back the layers - by the fifth or sixth day you learn that this place is far different than you originally thought."

—By Gary Scott

## Dons Overcome Netters

A duo from the San Quentin tennis team suffered an agonizing 4-2 defeat to the University of San Francisco Dons.

San Quentin players Ke Lam and Raphael Calix battled a team of the Dons' coaches, headed by Peter Bartlett.

Lam and Calix started out strong, volleying consistently. Lam's serve was difficult to return and perfectly placed. The coaches seemed a bit rusty, and lost the first few points.

But they eventually found their rhythm as Bartlett slammed

shots that Lam and Calix were unable to return. The coaches went on to win the match in comeback fashion.

Coach Bartlett has been the head coach of the USF Dons' tennis team for 15 years.

Also playing exhibition matches were five other Dons: Thai Tu of Alameda, Will Schmacher of New Orleans, Jonathon Knowlman of Brisbane, Australia, Richard Bucalem of Brazil and Germain Bahri of Belgium.

—By Gary Scott

# Coaching Behind the Wall

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

Here are comments from incarcerated men who are coaches of the San Quentin sports teams. They report coaching challenges, the qualities that coaches should possess, life skills that men could learn through coaching, and their main goals through mentoring.

## CHALLENGES

San Quentin Giants Infielder Coach Frankie Smith: "One of the biggest challenges is talent versus attitude. Another challenge is how to utilize each player to help benefit the team's success. There are three kinds of players: those who need to be pushed, those that need to be left alone, and those who cannot be coached."

San Quentin Warriors Interim Basketball Coach Daniel Wright: "Some of the challenges are dealing with different attitudes, trying to get everyone playing time, and trying to be understanding with players that may have issues going on in their everyday prison life."

## QUALITIES

Karriem Shaheed, offensive coach for the San Quentin All Madden flag football team, explains the qualities that a coach should have. He said, "A coach should have patience, foresight, good communication skills and be a good listener."

Wright explained his opinion concerning the qualities a coach should possess: "A coach should



One of the A's Baseball Coaches Jeffrey Evans

Official Photo

have patience, be authoritative and respected, and have understanding. A coach should have knowledge of the game, try to give guidance and help to some of the younger players that will be going home in a couple of years."

## LIFE SKILLS

Coach John "Yahya" Parrett and Assistant Coach Jeffry Evans of the San Quentin A's expressed what they believe are the life skills men can learn through coaching. They said, "You can learn how to be a decent human being, to be focused and founded just as you would be a parent."

Orlando Harris, defensive coach for the San Quentin All Madden flag football team: "Some of the life skills one can learn through coaching are to have honor, respect and a good work ethic. However, the most important things one can learn are communication, sportsman-

ship, patience and the ability to listen to constructive criticism."

## MENTORING

Harris discussed some of his main goals through mentoring: "Being a coach allows me to be me a molder of men. By coaching, I'm able to set a positive example, not for just young men, but all men. Some of the benefits I get from coaching are seeing men learn the meaning of teamwork, integrity and responsibility. These characteristics will enable them to utilize these qualities in their communities upon their release."

Shaheed said: "Coaching helps me to teach what I have learned to others and also to help them learn from the errors that I've made spiritually, mentally and physically. Coaching allows me to help each player find out what he is capable of, fine tune his talents and become the best that he can."

## Sports Tryouts

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team will conduct tryouts for the general population on Feb. 4. The Warriors training camp will begin in the first week of March.

The San Quentin Kings basketball team will hold tryouts in the beginning of March.

The San Quentin A's baseball team will hold tryouts in late February and early March.

The San Quentin Giants baseball team will conduct tryouts in late February and early March.

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team will conduct tryouts in March.

## 1000 Mile Club Holds The Annual Marathon

Members of San Quentin's 1000 Mile Club lined up for the ultimate challenge on Nov. 19, 105 laps around the lower yard, which is just about 26.2 miles - the official marathon distance.

The annual event attracted 15 runners and several volunteer supporters.

Chief sponsors Laura Bowman Salzsieder, Jill Friedman, coach, Frank Ruona, and Diana Fitzpatrick volunteered time and coaching experience to help the runners make it through this endurance race.

Club chairman Stephen Pasascio gave special thanks to the following prisoners for their support by counting the runners' laps: Michael Villanueva, William Quinones, and Tim Fielder.

Assistance Coach, Kevin Ruomon set a pace of 8-minutes per mile for the runners.

Eddie Herena finished the race in first place, breaking the old record of 3:45:40, with a time of 3:35:27.

Finishing in respective order, Stephen Yair Liebb, Chris Schuhmacher, Larry Ford, Patrick Givens, Andre Battle, Bill Pillars, Andrew Gazzeny, Coey McNeill, Chris Scull, Alton McSween, Dee Whitaker, and Joey Mason. Ralph Ligons power walked 10 miles in the time of 3:00:42. Ligons said that he would go for 15 miles next year.

—By Gary Scott and Juan Haines

# Words to My Father

*A daughter's struggle for her father's freedom and for family redemption*

By Juliang Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

As a little girl, Kishana Stiner fought to keep her family together after her father turned himself in to the American Embassy in Surinam. He had escaped from San Quentin Prison 20 years before and surrendered on the condition that his family be allowed to emigrate to the United States. Now she fights to free him from San Quentin.

Larry Watani Stiner scaled a fence and fled San Quentin after his 1969 conviction for conspiracy to commit murder. The charge involved the fatal shooting of two Black Panther Party members at the University of California at Los Angeles. At his two trials, no witness claimed Stiner fired a weapon.

**When did you understand that your father was not coming back?**

I was 11 and had just been placed in my first foster care home. On a visit, I asked my mother if my father was in jail and if he was coming back. She said keep praying. I began to understand it was possible he wasn't coming back.

**How did your role change in your family when your father left?**

Instantly, the need for me to care for my sisters and brothers became critical.

**As a young woman growing up in America, what were your challenges once you found out**



Kishana Stiner

Official Photo

**about your father's socio-political struggles?**

I had no real knowledge of America's socio-political history when I came here; a big challenge was staying balanced while my views were being formed. It would have been easy to have looked at his past struggles, assumed nothing had changed and lived with anger; I didn't want to do that.

**What did you do to cope when times got rough for you?**

Prayed a lot for help. I focused on my education and employment. I thought about my father how things would be better once he was released. Sadly, I'm still waiting.

**What is the relationship now with your father?**

It is as close as ever.

**Is it justice to continue to keep your father in prison after so many years being that he turned himself in?**

Certainly not! We are talking about someone that turned himself in and has spent nearly 23 years in prison. I feel he shouldn't have been convicted in the first place.

**How are your other sisters and brothers coping with their father's incarceration?**

It's very hard for each of them. To make things even more difficult, my father is now battling cancer and we can't stop worrying about him.

**Explain how (your father's) life has influenced your character and morals.**

My father's life has been all about sacrifices. It's helped me to not be afraid to stand up for others and myself in situations where things are not right.

**Education is important to you. Where did that come from?**

Our parents always encouraged us all and my father's sacrifice was done so we would have access to a good education.

**What advice can you give to young girls who may be going through troubles of not having their father to guide them?**

Love yourself, spend as much time as possible with family, and surround yourself with positive people. Even without your father's guidance, you can be a leader and succeed in life.

## Clase de Educación de Salud en Español

Clase de educación de salud en Español Centerforce esta poniendo (teniendo) clases de educación de salud los Lunes a las 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. en el edificio de la lavandería vieja.

Los tópicos (temas) incluyen: Hepatitis, A, B, y C., VIH/SIDA, Enfermedades transmitidas Sexualmente, y otros tópicos (temas) de interés de los estudiantes.

Si tienes preguntas, contacta: a Carranza 3N96L

## POETRY

### From A Window In San Quentin

By Fe P. Koons

**pray that you are safe from**

**the**

**Cruelty of the world and**  
**that you grow like a beauti-**  
**ful flower**

**Tucked in my diary forever.**

**Walls and more walls are**  
**all I feel in here**

**Voices of guilt and sorrow**  
**For the senseless passions**  
**of crime**

**The angels weep for prom-**  
**ise to be good for you**

**Yes, your eyes are still**  
**hazel**  
**Mirror of your soul**

**I wish I could see them**  
**And tell you how sorry I**  
**am.**

**My baby you are always in**  
**my heart**  
**In the solitary isolation,**

**you give me hope**  
**That everything will be all**  
**right.**

**Wait for me, my child. I am**  
**a mother in prison.**

**SET ME FREE.**

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is the only prisoner-produced newspaper in the California prison system and one of the few in the world. Prisoners do the reporting and editing work inside the prison, but they need help paying to have the paper printed.

From its founding in 1940 through 2009 the paper was printed by prisoners in the print shop. But in 2010 the print shop was closed due to statewide cost cutting measures.

Since then the paper has been printed at Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. The cost has been covered by private donations through a non-profit established for that purpose, the Prison Media Project.

Those donations are shrinking and if the paper is to continue, new support is needed. Please go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), to see how you can become a supporter. You get a tax deduction...plus a year's worth of copies of the newspaper mailed to you.

Many thanks, San Quentin News Staff and Advisors.

# Asked on the Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Think of all the things you plan on doing or accomplishing in the next 10 to 20 years. "Asked on the Line" conducted 41 random informal interviews with men in blue and teachers of the Prison University Project (PUP), and asked, "If you had the energy, time and resources to do just one of these things, which one would you do?"

For mainliners—after leaving San Quentin and getting off parole—70 percent would pursue personal interests. Spending time with family was the number one response, followed by traveling to various parts of the United States or to foreign countries. A three-way tie for third place went to embarking on a new career, starting a business, and earning a bachelor's or master's degree. In fourth place was devoting time to a religious faith.

Face would make up for lost

time and treat his mother like a queen, David would like to be a father to twin boys, and Kenyatta would travel the world. Ray and Camacho would attain bachelor degrees, and Richard would "spend time and money to further the good news of Jehovah."

However, 30 percent of the men in blue would engage in altruistic activities involving social service, education, or prison reform. Ke would start a non-profit to help at-risk youth. Phil would start one to help children excel in academic subjects. Hop would produce children's books, Calvin would become a youth pastor, Malik would work towards ending the prison system, and Michael would help "to make sure there is love in every family."

Among PUP teachers, 40 percent would engage in personal interests involving their careers, education, or family. Rhianon

would pass her comprehensive exams in Russian history, Emmett would start a business, Greg would be certified as a teacher while starting a family and Rick would write another book on mathematics.

Moreover, 60 percent of PUP teachers would engage in humanitarian activities. Kate would work to change the political and legislative systems and make them more inclusive, while Diana would participate in an AIDS bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Albert said volunteering for PUP has been "the best teaching experience" and would continue while earning his Ph.D. in European history. Finally, Michelle—a math, English, and Spanish tutor—would start "a comprehensive community center that would provide legal, health, and immigration services along with an on-site adult education program."

**SACRAMENTO** - Gov. Jerry Brown's 2012-13 budget proposals would reduce the state's workforce by some 3,000 positions, mostly from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The savings would fill just a tiny fraction of the \$9.2 billion budget hole projected through June 2013.

**STOCKTON** - Construction is under way on the California Health Care Facility, a nearly \$1 billion medical prison. When completed by the end of 2013, the 1.2 million-square-foot facility will provide long-term

medical and mental-health care to 1,722 state prisoners. Construction work is expected to generate 5,500 temporary jobs over the next two years. The facility will employ 2,400 doctors, nurses and correctional staffers with an annual payroll of \$220 million.

**MADERA COUNTY** - State officials are moving ahead with plans to convert the Valley State Prison for Women into a male prison to reduce overcrowding.

**SACRAMENTO** - A woman imprisoned for shaking her grandson to death has petitioned

Gov. Jerry Brown for clemency. Her conviction was overturned by an appeals court and then reinstated by the U.S. Supreme Court.

**SAN LUIS OBISPO** - A California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) firefighter, Crisanto Leo Lionell, died of presumed natural causes in early January during a training exercise with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention. Lionell was received by CDCR on Feb. 10, 2010, to serve an 11-year sentence.

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**OCT. 22, 1982** - An inmate attempting to scale a fence in the Badger Section exercise yard was shot in the back Oct. 7. The inmate was shot once with a shotgun, fell from the fence, then again climbed the fence. The con was then shot twice with a mini-14 before again falling to the ground. He was taken to the prison hospital.

**OCT. 22, 1982** - The governor signed into law the new one-for-one time credits law, which will become effective Jan. 1, 1983. The new system emphasizes participation in work and training programs.

**OCT. 22, 1982** - San Quentin's ranch, located on the bay

just outside the walls, is being expanded to add 110 more beds, bringing the capacity to 218. The ranch will include six new barracks, a new visiting center, a new laundry annex, a chow hall and a hobby and storage annex. Each barracks has 16 beds, each in its own cubicle—with no bunk beds.

**OCT. 22, 1982** - Two west Block cons were arrested after a large amount of weed was found in their cell. The alleged marijuana, stashed inside sealed cartons of Marlboro cigarettes, had an estimated institutional value of over \$10,000. The brand name of Laredo was found imprinted on each hand rolled cigarette.

**OCT. 22, 1982** - Clinton T. Duffy, the famous warden of San Quentin prison, died after a long illness. Duffy, an advocate of penal reform and opponent of the death penalty, served as warden from 1940-1951. He was born at San Quentin prison.

**NOV. 12, 1982** - An inmate from North block was stabbed on the North Block exercise yard the morning of Nov. 4. He was treated at the prison hospital and returned to his cell.

**NOV. 12, 1982** - Ruth Rushen, 57, the first woman and first black to serve as the director of the CDC, is retiring after three years on the job.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

## San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:

[www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com)  
or

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/San\\_Quentin\\_News/SQ-San\\_Quentin\\_News.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/San_Quentin_News/SQ-San_Quentin_News.html)

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisors who are professional journalists with over 100 years of experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

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# San Quentin News

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POPULATION 4,031

## Ex-Con Is A Baking Sensation

Dave's Killer Bread Owner Visits S.Q.

By San Quentin News Staff

Dave Dahl's story isn't typical for ex-felons. Most offenders do not get meaningful support that helps them re-integrate back into the community before they are released.

Ex-felons are typically released into the community under-educated, with meager employment prospects and scarce housing.

The negative consequence of drug use and thieving finally took its toll on Dahl while serving his fourth term inside an Oregon state penitentiary.

After 15 years of prison life, what do you think it took to change his mind-set?

Dahl said that depression led him to desperation. "I was on the verge of suicide, so I dropped a note in the box to see the psych. When I let go of that



Photo by Chris Redlitz

Dave Dahl

note and it left my hand, I knew there was no going back. I had to talk about my problems," he said during a recent visit to San Quentin.

Dahl said the professional and educational help he received while in prison improved his understanding of himself through humility, tolerance and acceptance.

Humility was a word Dahl used repeatedly in emphasizing the self-respect he believes ev-

See *Killer Bread's* on Page 4

## Author Works To End Street Gang Violence

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Award-winning author Luis J. Rodriguez, whose early life was plagued by gang life, addiction, and incarceration, is now joining forces with a group of prisoners at San Quentin to help change the outside world's perception of prisoners.

In January, Rodriguez visited Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together), a group of prisoners at San Quentin who committed their crimes as juveniles but were tried as adults. Like Rodriguez, the group strives to openly express themselves about their troubled pasts, and have been writing journal pieces for the past year and a half to tell unguarded stories of their lives.

"When we were children, we never had a voice," said Michael Nelson, chairman of Kid C.A.T. "Now, through the writings of Kid C.A.T., we have the opportunity to express ourselves as



Photo by Larry Schneider

Luis J. Rodriguez and Arnulfo T. Garcia

'who we are', separate from our crimes and being incarcerated."

Rodriguez and Kid C.A.T. will work together to publish a collection of the journal pieces, which Nelson hopes will change the perspectives of people on the outside.

Rodriguez also took the opportunity to tell Kid C.A.T. about his struggle with drugs, gangs, and fatherhood.

See *Rodriguez* on Page 4

## Injuries in Reception Center Riot

By Gabe Walters  
Public Information Officer

Initial reports suggest anywhere from 150 to 200 inmates were involved in a large scale riot involving weapons on the Badger Section Reception Center exercise yard at about 11:30 a.m. Feb. 9. Staff utilized chemical agents, non-lethal and lethal force to quell the incident.

Inmates were assessed for injuries and those with more severe injuries were transported to local hospitals by ambulances and state vehicles. Several inmates were slashed and/or stabbed multiple times during the incident and four are currently being treated at an outside hospital for non-life threatening injuries. No staff were injured.

The institution was placed on a modified program pending further investigation into this matter.

Mainline Prisoners returned to normal program on Feb. 14. The program status for the reception center is "modified program."

### Programs Available at San Quentin

Want to join one of the many self help programs available here at San Quentin? Turn to Page 7.

## Prisoner Wins Hearing Because of Court Error



Official Photo

LaQuan Hayes

Ten years ago, LaQuan Hayes was mistakenly sentenced to life in prison. This year, he's finally getting another day in court to correct the error and go home.

His story began in 1989, when he was 18 years old. His cousin was in the Navy, stationed in San Diego. They went out drinking on a Friday night, and Hayes, drunk, drove his cousin around

the city. He began weaving on the road. When the police tried to stop him, a high-speed chase ensued. The car flipped and his cousin was killed.

Hayes was charged with vehicular manslaughter causing "great bodily injury", a phrase that implies malice and makes the offense a "strike" under the Three Strikes law. Hayes signed a plea agreement that struck "great bodily injury" from the charges, and was sentenced to four years in prison.

"I was an 18-year old naïve youngster, never in trouble, living with relatives, employed by Price Club, and being locked up for the first time," Hayes recalled. "While I was in county jail, I was told that if I was to survive in prison, I had to be either homosexual or a gang member. I knew that I wasn't gay, so I chose gang life, and joined a San Diego gang. I was heavily influenced by gang life in prison."

See *Hayes Wins Hearing* on Page 4

## First Benchmark Met In Prison Realignment

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

California has met the first benchmark for solving its overcrowded prisons by shifting low-level offenders to county jails instead of state prison facilities. This is what Gov. Jerry Brown calls "realignment."

However, one CDCR psychologist believes that the influx of felons shuffled to county jails is two to three times the number state officials estimated.

Added to the problem is that many of these realigned offenders are producing or aggravating security flaws in older jails that are not constructed to hold them

for extended periods, according to a Contra Costa County sheriff's official. Among the deficiencies: cells that have wooden rather than metal doors, walls made of sheet rock, not cinder block; and no sinks or toilets, requiring guards to constantly supervise prisoners who need to use restroom facilities.

Two significant factors increase the risk of offenders — mental illness and substance abuse issues, and 75 percent of the state's prison population has substance abuse or mental illness problems, according to a report in the San Jose Mercury News.

See *Benchmark* on Page 4

### Prison Chief Backs Gadgets as Incentives

Director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Matthew Cate says that he wants to allow prisoners to have access to electronic gadgets.

While in New York City speaking to a group of journalists at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Cate said that California prisons have become so focused on punishment that there is "very little benefit to obeying the rules," according to an article in the San Francisco Chronicle.

"I think, ultimately, I'd like to get to a place where 95 percent of our prisons are places where inmates have everything from MP3 players to Xbox to cable TV. I don't care, they can have (all the) goodies you can possibly get, great, as long as they follow the rules... and our guards are safe," said Cate.

# How Connecticut Cut Its Recidivism Rate

By Tom Bolema  
San Quentin Literacy  
Coordinator

Mara Duncan teaches at Contra Costa Adult School (CCAS) in the West County Detention Facility (WCDF), a jail located in Richmond, CA, across the bay from San Quentin. In 2010 Richmond ranked the 6<sup>th</sup> highest crime rate among 400 US cities, right behind Oakland. We arranged for this interview at the 2011 Centerforce Conference.

**What is your history in education and how long have you been working at WCDF?**

I have a B.A. in Psychology, a M.Ed. in Counseling, and two ABDs (All but Dissertation) in Clinical Psychology and Education. I have taught in public schools for over 20 years, ranging from third grade through the university level. About six years ago, I was a short-term substitute Independent Study teacher at the Martinez facility, soon became a regular sub at both West County and Martinez, then

part-time Independent Study teacher, and finally full-time at WCDF.

**What education programs do you offer at WCDF?**

CCAS - under the aegis of the Contra Costa County Office of Education - serves students who are inmates in the county jail system. The school program is housed in the county's three detention facilities: Marsh Creek (low security), West County (medium security), and Martinez (high security). Classes include Computer Applications, DEUCE, Parenting, Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education (high school or adult school diploma), Independent Study, and English as a Second Language. The average length of student enrollment is four weeks.

**What do you consider the most effective programs in reducing recidivism?**

It depends on the needs of the individual student, and there are interactive effects between various classes. A student who has a strong academic history but is caught up in substance abuse may benefit most from the DEUCE (substance abuse and chemical dependency) and/or Parenting class. A student who did not do well academically may find confidence and motivation when passing the GED or mastering computer skills, but if struggling with unhealthy habits and/or beliefs, may benefit from combining academics and DEUCE.

The current buzz in terms of funding in California seems to be job-readiness skills. Leaving jail and finding a good job leading to financial stability is critical, but is not the whole story. Connecticut prisons reversed

their recidivism rate from 70 percent to 30 percent by comprehensively addressing both

the social and material needs of incarcerated individuals, including their families in the process. An inmate who has strong, connected, functional family relationships is less likely to return to jail or prison.

Lastly, I can only encourage my students to become life-long learners by educating themselves both formally and informally, and by becoming active citizens in creating the kind of world, they want for the children of this planet.

**What are the demographics of your clientele?**

Over 3,000 incarcerated adults enroll in the CCAS programs each year. African-Americans make up nine percent of county population, but 33 percent of student inmates; Hispanics are 18 percent of

county population, 25 percent of students; Indians one percent of county population, two percent of students; whites 58 percent of the county population, 37 percent of students; Asians 11 percent of county population, three percent of students. About five percent of students were between 18 and 20 years old; 37 percent between 21 and 29; 26 percent between 30 and 39; 22 percent between 40 and 49; nine percent between 50 and 60, and about one percent over 60. About 81 percent of CCAS students are males; 19 percent females. (Figures are from 2008-09 school years.)

**How is the CDCR realignment affecting your site?**

It is difficult to state with any certainty as the changes are happening relatively slowly through court sentencing. In my classes, there appear to be more students with longer sentences, leading to more completions of the DEUCE program, and students wanting to do the parenting class multiple times.

## EDUCATION CORNER

## State to Close All Juvenile Facilities

**Study says crime rates fell to lowest ever while incarceration costs rose to \$200,000 a year**

By San Quentin News Staff

The last of California's juvenile detention facilities will be shut down under Gov. Jerry Brown's 2011-12 budget proposal. The three remaining facilities hold about 1,100 offenders. They will be transferred to county control if Brown's budget is passed.

"What the research shows is that most juveniles are successful at rehabilitating when they live closer to their families so that their families can be part of their rehabilitation treatment," California Corrections and Rehabilitation Department's Bill Sessa said.

This is a stark difference from 15 years ago when 11 facilities that held more than 10,000 youngsters were "well known for 23-hour cell confinements, using cages as punishment for misbehaving and staff beatings, sometimes caught on tape," according to a report by ABC7.

In 2008 the Hoover Commission recommended closing youth prisons because the price tag to incarcerate each offender grew to \$200,000 a year, even though crime rates for juvenile crime fell to its lowest since records began in the mid-50s.

## Centerforce Offering Peer Health-Related Education

By Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal  
Contributing Writer

Centerforce invites the new inmate population in West and North Block to participate in a series of peer-led health-related classes.

These classes cover a wide range of topics from HIV and hepatitis prevention to cognitive and behavioral transformation.

The classes are held Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Old Laundry Building in Education. The classes we are currently offering are as follows:

- Mondays, Spanish Health Class

The Monday and Wednesday classes are open to the general population. The Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday classes are by sign-up only.

Sign up with Julie Lifshay of Centerforce or the following Peer Health Educators: Asuega, 3H33L; Carranza, 3N96L; Larus, 4H95L; Leal, 4N29L; Morris, 1N32L.

## Medical Care

By Elena Tootell  
Chief Medical Officer  
San Quentin State Prison

Welcome to the San Quentin Medical Corner. I hope to create a monthly letter to be included in the S.Q. News that will inform patients about the current activities of the S.Q. Medical Department.

This month, I would like to discuss screening tests, offered to people before they have symptoms of a particular disease. This allows us to find medical conditions or diseases early, when there are better treatments for a condition. Some of the most common screening tests we offer here are for HIV, hepatitis C, colon cancer, hypertension, and aneurysm.

- HIV tests are offered to all inmates entering S.Q. through the R and R process. You can also request an HIV test by completing a 7362 form. You will not be charged the normal \$5 co-pay for an HIV test. Finding HIV early allows for the patient to receive early treatment and medications to prevent associated infections. It also allows the HIV positive person to protect their family members by learning about behaviors that will keep their family safe.
- Hepatitis C tests are also free at S.Q. If you know you have Hepatitis C, your screening test will always be positive, so there is no need to repeat this test. If you don't know your Hep C status, or if you have previously tested negative, you can request another test by completing a 7362. We routinely test all inmates entering S.Q. through the R and R process.
- Colon cancer screening is offered to all men over 50 years old. This test looks for microscopic blood in feces (poop) that may have been released by a small tumor. If the test is positive, a colonoscopy should be done which can remove small tumors. This test should be done every year unless you have had a colonoscopy. If you had a "clean" colonoscopy, you do not need to restart the stool test for another 10 years. If you are eligible for this test, you will be educated to the lab, where the test will be explained.
- Hypertension (high blood pressure) is a condition that can lead to a heart attack, stroke, or kidney problems. It is easily treated with medications and lifestyle changes.
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm is a "ballooning" of a large blood vessel in the belly. If the "ballooning" causes the blood vessel wall to become thin, it may rupture, usually causing death. The blood vessel wall can become thin as a result of high blood pressure (hypertension), smoking, and age. The test is an ultrasound of the belly and is done at S.Q. To be eligible for this test, you need to be over 65 years old and have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in your life. The test only needs to be done once. If an AAA is identified, there are treatments available that can prevent the rupture of the blood vessel.

Contact your health care provider for further information.

# New Rules for Veterans' Transitional Housing

## PAROLE BOARDS STILL NOT ON BOARD WITH THE CHANGE

By Ron G. Self  
Journalism Guild Writer

One very important component in obtaining a parole date is having confirmation of transitional housing. For most prisoners, this can be a serious challenge.

However, for veterans this challenge should be an easy

obstacle to overcome. Unfortunately, there is a bump in the road. The Veterans Administration will not issue a letter saying that the prisoner has a bed waiting for him or her.

However, VA transitional housing centers will pre-screen a veteran to determine eligibility for placement and then issue a letter confirming that once he

or she arrives at a specific location, he or she will be placed at that time.

President Obama's five-year plan went into effect in 2010. It is now mandated that homeless veterans be housed and the VA classifies incarcerated vets as homeless.

The five-year plan says one of its programs for justice-involved

veterans is "Transitional planning for Veterans discharging from the justice system." The parole board rejects the wording explaining the VA procedure.

Inmate R. Willis was recently issued a letter from the Inglewood VA center confirming he has been pre-screened and upon his arrival he will be placed in

a bed. This succeeded because Willis case was handled in court, not before the parole board. His release was contingent on transitional housing, more specifically, a letter stating he had a place to go.

A VA official reports he is working to rectify the parole problem.

## Plans Unfold for S.Q. Peace Walk in June

By Gino Sevacos  
Contributing Writer

This summer, prisoners, administrators and correctional officers plan to bridge their differences and unite for poor children around the world.

San Quentin has scheduled its second annual Peace Walk for Sunday, June 10, 2012.

The walk raises money to aid traumatized youth around the world.

Champions for Children, prisoners, outside volunteers and San Quentin staff are organizing the walk.

Last year's Peace Walk raised upwards of \$12,000 in spite of short notice.

The beneficiary is the Amala Foundation, a non-profit organization that aids youth challenged by poverty and violence.

Donations will send these youth to Amala Foundation's annual Global Youth Peace Summit, a weeklong conference for youth ages 13-18 years. The event is part of Amala's One Village Project that serves to unite youth with local refugee and immigrant children to promote cultural awareness.

Amala founder Vanessa Stone began coming into San Quentin a few years ago. Renowned as a spiritual teacher, she gave inspirational talks to the men and said she was deeply moved by their commitment to spiritual growth and their heartfelt desire to serve. As a natural outflow of their concerns for underprivileged youth, Champions for Children was formed.

In Vanessa's words, "When human beings authentically



Photo by Sam Robinson

Prisoners, staff and guests join hands on the lower yard

connect, celebrate life and receive what is being offered... what arises is a natural impulse to unite, to serve, to give, to love..."

Last year's Peace Walk bridged the gap between staff, inmates, volunteers, and guest walkers for a moment in time – One Village united in heart-opening service. One guest who walked last year was 18-year-old

Evelyn who, as a young girl in Uganda, was abducted to be a child soldier. She told the men that because of the Peace Walk at San Quentin, she now knows that the world is about love and not about hate.

Amala is seeking sponsorship from businesses and individuals. In addition, reservations are available for up to 100 guests who wish to walk. San Quen-

tin residents are encouraged to express their generosity of heart by walking and donating, using a trust account withdrawal form. Notices will be posted in the housing units for walking signups.

Contact: [www.amalafoundation.org](http://www.amalafoundation.org)

*-Dwight Krizman contributed to this story.*

## One Day At A Time – Johnny Rodriguez's Remarkable Program for At-Risk-Youth

By Richard Lindsey  
Journalism Guild Writer

Johnny Rodriguez grew up in a neighborhood where gangs and drugs were a prevalent force in society. The experience of navigating through the challenges associated with his youth would become the impetus for Rodriguez to create a program designed to help at-risk youth "learn to successfully navigate through life and effectively cope with adversity."

"All youth are at high risk of being involved in gangs," said Rodriguez, executive director and founder of the non-profit organization "One Day At A Time" (ODAT).

In a recent interview in San Quentin, Rodriguez said he was fortunate to have guidance that led him to achieve good grades and become a three-time state wrestling champion. However, Rodriguez recalled, "Nobody told me there was anything after high school."

When the "glory days" associated with his academic and athletic success in school were over, he found himself



Official Photo

Group of young teens mentored by Johnny Rodriguez

idly spending his days without much direction in life.

Two years after graduation a friend who served time in prison told Rodriguez, "You make your own choices in life." That friend encouraged Rodriguez to do something more with his life. Shortly after, Rodriguez received a call from his high school counselor who offered him a job mentoring at-risk youth. Rodriguez agreed, and that experience propelled him to develop the ODAT curriculum.

From 1997 through 2002 Rodriguez implemented the program in middle and high

schools across east Contra Costa County. In 2002, One Day At A Time was established as a non-profit organization.

Focusing on students in grades 6-12, ODAT utilizes a mentoring process that develops relationships based upon trust that ultimately "provides a framework for helping young people learn to successfully navigate through life and effectively cope with adversity."

The nine-month program teaches a multitude of positive skills, including: self-discipline, personal responsibility,

substance abuse prevention, cultural awareness, and maintaining positive relationships.

Program participants generally have higher rates of school attendance and lower rates of truancy and disciplinary actions, the ODAT web site reports. Additionally, most enjoy the benefit of increasing their grade-point average.

Activities are designed to develop trust among participants. One recent graduate, Vanessa Lanzaz, recounts that she was initially "hesitant to open up," but soon found herself trusting fellow participants. Vanessa now serves in a leadership role in the program. She reminds others of one valuable lesson she learned: "You are going to miss 100 percent of the opportunities you don't take in life."

Rodriguez sees the success of ODAT as dependent upon providing "positive opportunities to the youth and adults who might otherwise make wrong choices in life." That achievement comes through supporting participants in becoming future counselors for the program and community leaders, he said.

In a major decision on privacy in the digital age, the Supreme Court has ruled that police need a warrant before attaching a Global Positioning System device to a person's car.

The ruling, which marked the justices' first-ever review of GPS tracking, was unanimous. The justices divided, however, on how the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and seizures applies.

The case ensures that police cannot use a GPS to continuously track a suspect before obtaining a warrant from a judge.

The decision specifically applies when police install a GPS device on a person's car. Five justices suggested in concurring statements that a warrant might similarly be needed for prolonged surveillance through smart phones or other devices with GPS capabilities.

The court reversed the cocaine-trafficking conviction of Antoine Jones, a Washington, D.C. nightclub owner. Police attached a GPS device to his Jeep while it was parked in a public lot. Agents used the evidence of Jones' movements over four weeks to help win the conviction on conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

## Judges Rule Against Secret GPS on Cars

By Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer

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# Brown Allowing More Prisoner Paroles

By San Quentin News Staff

It is the Board of Parole Hearing's (BPH) job to determine if offenders pose a danger to public safety before scheduling a release date. Gov. Jerry Brown has approved 80 percent of BPH findings, saying that a prisoner is no danger to public safety and is eligible for release. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger agreed with those findings 25 percent of the time, while Gov. Gray Davis approved only about 2 percent.

Some California crime victim activists voiced frustration at Gov. Brown because he doesn't reverse BPH decisions the same

## Governor Approves 80 Percent Of Parole Board Decisions

way as his predecessors.

"It's a huge jump. We're talking about some of the most dangerous criminals that were put in prison for a very long time for a very good reason. That number is just very concerning to us," said Christine Ward, executive director of Crime Victims Action Alliance.

Ward is referring to the 331 times Gov. Brown agreed with the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) - that a prisoner is eligible for release from prison.

Two recent state Supreme Court rulings said that governors who want to reverse BPH findings of parole eligibility must show some evidence that the prisoner remains a danger to public safety, such as the failure to take responsibility for his crime.

The nature of the original crime is not enough to deny parole.

"The governor has a duty to respect the law but also to uphold public safety. We think he's

struck a balance with these decisions," said Evan Westrup, a spokesperson for the governor's office.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's latest report on post release activities for convicted murders between 1995 and 2011 show that only five new crimes were committed by the 860 who were released.

As of June 2011, California's lifer population consist of 25,135 lifers with the possibility of parole, 4,303 life without the possibility of parole, 8,780 three strikers, and 715 condemned prisoners.

# Rodriguez Gets His Wake-Up

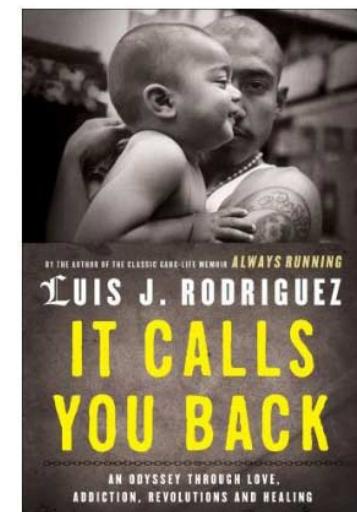
Continued from Page 1

to heroin. At 17 he was arrested for attempted murder, and was placed in a cell on murder row right next to Charles Manson.

"When my son was born, my oldest son, I was 20 years old," he told the San Quentin News. "I had just left heroin. I had gotten out of the county jail. You know, I just left all that craziness, I'm never going to go back. And I held him in my arms, thinking, I want to be the best dad."

But Rodriguez said he couldn't meet that promise — though he was no longer addicted to heroin, he had become an alcoholic and suffered from other problems. "I had rage issues," he said. "I had addiction issues that lasted for a total of 27 years, and I had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. I didn't know anything about [P.T.S.D.], so I could be triggered really easily. I had a hard time with relationships and with my own kid."

Eventually, he got a wake-up call. When his oldest son was 13, he told Rodriguez that he wanted to be just like him: a gang member. Rodriguez decided to turn his life around and become a real father. His son's mother sent him to Chicago to live with Rodriguez, hoping it would get him away from the gang life in Los Angeles. But Rodriguez quickly learned that Chicago was not exempt from gang life, and his son eventually succumbed and became a gang leader himself.



Author's book cover

His son was arrested for shooting at two police officers and received a 28-year sentence, but was freed after 13 years after a change in the laws.

"It tears you up as a dad," Rodriguez said. "When you realize that, I'm partially responsible. I should have been there for him. I should have kept that promise that I made to him. It was very difficult, but that's what you learn, you learn, to be there for your kids."

Today, he and his son have a good relationship. Rodriguez proudly discussed his son's work in Chicago, where, like him, he works with young gang members to show them a better way of life.

Now, Rodriguez is a leading activist for a stronger social network for prisoners and parolees. Prison administrators around the world have invited him into their institutions to spread his message of hope to prisoners who believe their lives are over.

A transcript of the telephone call with Luis J. Rodriguez is available on the San Quentin News website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com).

## Two Efforts Underway to Amend the Three Strikes Law

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Two separate efforts to amend California's controversial Three Strikes Law are under way—in the Legislature and by voter initiative.

AB327 passed the state Assembly in January on a 41-33 vote. It now heads to the Senate. If approved there and signed by

the governor, it would be placed on the November 2014 ballot.

There are different provisions in the ballot initiative drafted by the Stanford Three Strikes Project.

It would also allow certain hard-core criminals with prior offenses for murder, rape, and child molestation to be put away for life, even if their current offense is a minor crime.

Assemblyman Mike Davis said he was aware of the Stanford Initiative when he drafted AB327. He added he is willing to support the initiative.

Under the existing Three Strike law, life sentences have been given for such minor crimes as stealing a piece of pizza, attempting to break into a soup kitchen to get something to eat or forging a Check for

\$146. AB 327 would require the Third Strike to be a serious or violent felony to count as a third strike, except for offenders whose most recent offense involved certain sex offenses, a substantial quantity of drugs, or intention to cause great bodily harm.

A spokesman for the Stanford initiative said, "It's too important to wait until 2014."



## Killer Bread's Success

Continued from Page 1

every man must obtain in order to "get to a better place in life."

He said that even though he learned computer drafting while in prison, his father's bakery inspired to him to create uniquely tasty breads and branch out to form his own company.

Dahl told this story to a classroom of San Quentin prisoners involved in a business literary training program called The Last Mile.

The Last Mile is designed to bridge the gap between the penal system and the technology business sector. Chris Redlitz sponsors the program with the goal of providing marketable business skills to participants that may be utilized upon release.

Redlitz said that he was doing research for his program when he read about Dave's Killer Bread.

Get the whole story: [www.daveskillerbread.com](http://www.daveskillerbread.com)

Follow Dave on Twitter: @killerbreadman

Google "facebook/daveskillerbread" to become a fan.

## Benchmark Met in Prison Realignment

Continued from Page 1

Treating mental health and substance abuse after release is an essential factor in keeping offenders from being re-arrested and imprisoned, a 2011 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation study found.

Requiring counties to take care of offenders with mental health and substance abuse issues is "an unexpected repercussion of the court-ordered reorganization of the state's prisons to reduce overcrowding," according to the Los Angeles Times.

The initiative campaign is midway through collecting the 504,760 voter signatures required for the initiative to qualify for the November 2012 ballot.

The San Jose Mercury News reports that six percent of California prisoners are three strikers, but they represent \$100 million in costs per year.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Appliance Tech Tips

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last month, the CSI team covered basic headphone and cord problems. Wrapping cords tight breaks the tiny wires inside over time.

This month, CD players and small radios. Over the years, people have brought me many hand-held players with the statement; "I dropped it and it won't play anymore". My reply; "Dropping it is not in the instruction manual." The CD laser eye is on a delicate suspension system that can bend when dropped. Finding music data on the disc is like looking for a grain of rice at Candlestick Park. Treat your player like a warm jar of nitro-glycerin. Anticipate dropping it and prevent it ahead of time.

If there is a fingerprint on the lens, DON'T use an alcohol wipe. It leaves a cloudy film. Don't use tissue, it's made from scratchy wood. Only if it's smudgy, use a clean t-shirt in a gentle circular motion. You can wash CDs with a few drops of shampoo and warm water, rinse, wipe dry with a clean shirt, not tissue.

While the Sony player is the best because all the works are in the bottom with better switches, its spindle is the weak link. I've carefully removed the springs on new units and cut a third off which helps remove the force when loading CDs. With all players, set the disc in gently and nudge it into place. Slammering it slides the platform down the motor shaft and bottoms it out. Removing: thumb in middle while pulling up on the edges. Capping the top of the spindle with a drop of glue helps also. Internal battery lids with broken latches can scratch CDs while playing. A piece of tape will hold it down.

The small rotary volume controls on radios and CDs have a sprayed on resistive coating that wears off quickly. Set your volume AND LEAVE IT ALONE! Your headphone cord is your FM antenna. All FM stations are between channel 6 and 7 on the TV band. A hook-up to your splitter should help reception.

**Next time: Your TV is watching you while you're sleeping.**

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

In each of the following sequences, one number is out of place. Identify the number that is out of place and replace it with the correct one.

1, 4, 8, 16, 25, 36  
1/6, 1/3, 1/2, 2/3, 4/5, 1  
2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 17



December's Answer is "Gross." It is different from the other words because it is the only word with curved letters.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Journalism Guild Writer

Powwows have taken place in Native America for millennia. They were a way for far-flung tribes to unite with other natives, to share food, trade, and to participate in sacred dances and ceremonies.

Powwows usually took place four times a year - during the spring and fall equinoxes, and during the summer and winter solstices.

Many modern tribes still follow the traditional ceremonies during the solstices and equinoxes, where people trade, eat and participate in sacred dances and ceremonies, such as the drum ceremony and the sweat ceremony, accompanied with the pipe ceremony.

## Snippets

**V**enus, which is the second planet from the Sun, rotates one day for every 243 Earth days.

**A**t the University of Arizona, researchers claim that TV remote controls in hospital rooms carry more bacteria than the toilet handle.

**L**aw enforcement officers in North Carolina can arrest a person for singing off key in public.

**E**very Monopoly set will have approximately \$15,140 worth of play money in each game.

**N**icorette gum was President Obama's choice while trying to quit smoking cigarettes.

**T**he North Pole, minus the wind chill, is coldest in February, when the temperature could drop to -31 degrees Fahrenheit. It is the warmest in June when temperatures can reach 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

**I**n 1985 Fidel Castro quit smoking cigars. He stated later that, "The best thing you can do with this box of cigars is to give them to your enemy."

**N**amed Wonder Woman with only \$25 dollars in her bank account, Lynda Carter beat 2,000 other actresses competing for the casting role.

**E**uropean doctors in 1557 recommended that people smoke to fight bad breath and cancer.

**S**assanid Empire, encompassing what is now Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and the Arabian peninsula, is one of the two superpowers that ruled in late antiquity beside the Roman Empire.

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

3	2	7	1	9	6	8	5	4
4	6	5	7	2	8	3	1	9
9	1	8	3	5	4	6	7	2
2	8	3	9	4	1	7	6	5
5	4	6	8	3	7	9	2	1
7	9	1	5	6	2	4	3	8
8	7	2	4	1	3	5	9	6
1	3	9	6	8	5	2	4	7
6	5	4	2	7	9	1	8	3



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**CULTURAL LITERACY** (By E. D. Hirsch, Jr.) Concrete lists trump text in this work about the character and range literate Americans tend to share.



**IT CALLS YOU BACK** (By Luis J. Rodriguez): Gary Soto, New York Times, said, "Rodriguez's account of his coming of age is vivid, raw, fierce, and fearless. Here's truth no television set, burning night and day, could ever begin to offer."



**THE OREGON EXPERIMENT** (By Keith Scribner): A college professor moves from New York to Oregon to study anarchism. His blind ambition and self-involvement play havoc on his career and family.

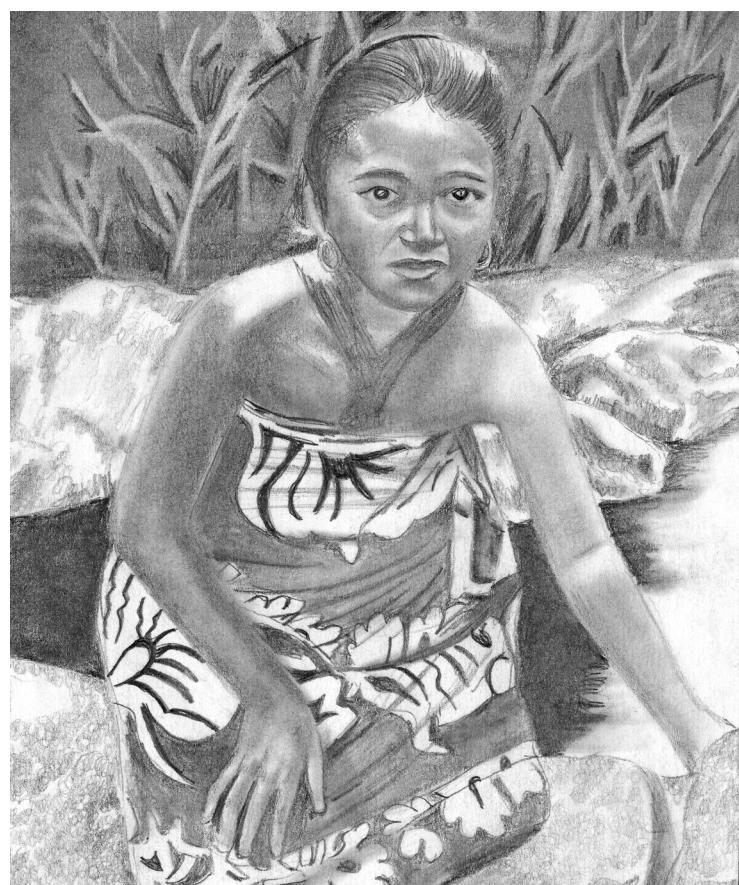


**A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES** (By Howard Zinn) Fun and irreverent, warts and all history of the United States.

### RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one: 

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of R. Sanchez

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

		3		1		4		
		5		2		8		1
1					3			6
		3		4		1		6
4		5		8		1		9
		1		6		2		3
7					4			5
		9		8		5		4
		6		2		3		



Photo by Sam Robinson

Old tennis court on the lower yard that the U.S. Tennis Association is replacing

## New S.Q. Tennis Court Surface

The San Quentin tennis team is going to have a professional surface to play on, thanks to a donation by the United States Tennis Association.

Eric Saviano is leading the team that is laying a new two-tone green surface.

He said, "We lay about 300 tennis courts a year and we also do basketball courts as well. We're just laying down a better playing surface for the San Quentin tennis players."

Saviano said that he laid concrete, asphalt, and clay courts and prepared courts in Beijing during the Olympics.

The United States Tennis Association also donated tennis rackets and balls to the San Quentin tennis team.

SQ team member Nheip Lam said, "We are very thankful to our recreational Coach Don DeNevi, who was instrumental in bringing outside tennis to the inside tennis team. The brand new fence made our tennis court

more professional, which allows us to feel accepted by our community we have left on the other side of the wall. Thanks to The United States Tennis Association, Leslie Neal, Rex Miller and everyone on the team."

Another team member, Gino Sevacos, said, "I'm grateful. We're going to have a better court to play on. It feels great to know that we're being supported."

—Gary Scott

## Warlocks Beat All Madden 12-6

The San Quentin Warlocks ran over the San Quentin All Madden flag football team in a shortened game, winning 12-6.

The Warlocks running game was difficult for All Madden to defend as starting quarterback John Windham ran for a 30-yard touchdown, which proved to be the game winner.

All Madden quarterback Kevin Chatman ran for 12 yards and threw an eight-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Carr. However, they failed on a two-point conversion.

Lamarr Mainor set up the All Madden for its first touchdown when he grabbed an interception and returned it for 40 yards.

The Warlocks struck back as they ran the football for eight yards, knocking down defenders along the way. Then Warlocks quarterback Windham ran for a 28-yard touchdown, tying the game at 6-6. However, they also failed on a two-point conversion.

During the closing minutes, the All Madden defense stepped up as linebacker Sean Simms defended the run by grabbing two important flags. Marcus Crum and Malcolm Williams also contributed, knocking down passes.

However, All Madden failed to tie or win the game on a conversion, as back up quarterback Kevin Carr threw a

fourth-down interception to Joshua "JB" Burton.

After the Warlocks win, Windham said, "This is a fresh experience. It was great. To have an opportunity to go back and relive pass dreams of playing is great."

With the increase of main line men in San Quentin, it felt like a football stadium as the crowd cheered and awed, watching the plays. The Warlocks sideline finished the game yelling, "Fire it up!" and then showing sportsmanship by shaking the hands of the All Madden players.

—Gary Scott

## San Quentin State Prison: 161 Years of Prison History

*First in a series of articles on the history of San Quentin State Prison*

By Keshun Tate  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin is an historical landmark and one of the best-known locations in the world.

It derived its name from an Indian chief who in 1824 lost an intense battle against Mexican soldiers on the area San Quentin Prison now sits.

After California became a state in the wake of the Gold Rush, capital punishment was adopted in 1851. Initially prisoners slept in a barge anchored in the bay, working in the daytime to build the cell-blocks where they would later be locked up.

The Spanish-style entrance building was completed in 1854. Women were incarcerated in the old San Quentin Hospital building from 1856 until

1933. Also serving time with the women was a 13-year-old girl. A state hearing document recorded that guards shared women's quarters and operated a bar on the prison grounds. There was one case of a woman becoming pregnant.

Capital punishment was implemented into the California Criminal Practice Act of 1851. This was the era when gold fever struck the hearts and minds of those who wanted to get rich quick. Along with this fever came a lot of crime. With no state prison, an investor was hired to operate the prison.

The first people to hold the lease were General James Madison Estell and General Mariano G. Vallejo, the former Mexican governor of California. A 13-year-old merchant

vessel named Waban was converted to a barge to hold 40 prisoners. Conditions were so harsh that some inmates jumped into the bay with their chains on to attempt escape.

San Quentin was chosen as the location for a prison because of its proximity to the booming city of San Francisco. California paid \$10,000 to Benjamin Bucklewe for the property. Before the prisoners arrived, General Estell bought up all the needed land to build the prison.

The first building the prisoners built housed their guards. At that time, many prisoners escaped to nearby Mt. Tamalpais. If a prisoner was captured, he would receive 100 to 150 lashes along with a ball and chain. Lashes were also given

out for rule infractions; the amount of lashes would vary according to the seriousness of the infraction. To replace the inmates who escaped, the prison paid \$1 a mile for sheriffs to bring prisoners back to San Quentin.

Estell and three investors formed San Francisco Manufacturing Company, using prisoners for labor. The company provided bricks for the buildings at a high price. Estell even sold pardons to inmates. During this time, escapes became a major issue for the prison. Marin County residents claimed that there was a band of outlaws living on Mt. Tamalpais and pilfering nearby communities.

The original prison had 48 cells above the guards quarters. Each cells had a hole in the door.

When a prisoner put his nose in it to get some fresh air the cell would become dark.

After numerous complaints and an inspection, the state took over San Quentin on June 1, 1855. This is when prisoners built a wall around the prison using prison-made bricks.

Bricks were a strong source of income for the prison, but when the economy fell so did the demand for bricks. Within a six-month period, the Prison Directors cost the state so much money that the commissioners were forced to ask Estell to take back the prison under a new contract. Because of bad health, Estell passed the keys to John McCauley. McCauley would cut cost by denying inmates necessities along with serving them bad food.

## SPORTS

# Warlocks Coach On Life's Lessons

*"My inspiration was Pele"*

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

*John Windham, Quarterback of the San Quentin Warlocks, discusses his love for sports, the life skills he learned through sports and his appreciation for his childhood coaches.*

**What kind of sports did you play growing up?**

I played baseball, football, basketball, track, and wrestling. I played everything.

**Who inspired you to play sports?**

My aspiration was to be like the soccer player Pele. That was what people called me, Pele.

**Who mentored you in your sports development?**

The coaches that I lived with all those years in Pop Warner inspired me. I lived with them to get away from my neighborhood, to get away from my environment.

**Do you consider yourself a student athlete?**

I'm always going to be a student. My thing is not to teach the sport. My coaches taught me [but] the sport they didn't teach me: the game of life. So what I teach is life in the field and by that way I grow too.

**What kind of life skills have you learned through playing sports?**

I've learned virtue, respect, empathy and what it means to be a team player, putting others

before self.

**What kind of programs have you participated in during your incarceration?**

I've participated in anger management, stress management, culpability skills, and life skills because it was my anger that got me in trouble.

**Did you have a father in your life to teach you life skills?**

No.

**If you had a father in your life, what would you want him to have taught you?**

I would want him to teach me how to deal with my anger. I used to visit my dad in San Quentin. Growing up I was taught you don't call the police; you dealt with it. There was nobody to tell me to cut it off right here. But having a father, I got that in team sports. That gave me discipline. I got that discipline from team sports because I wanted that discipline. I think that's the problem with young black men today. That's why they play team sports.

**If there were anything you could say to the coaches that helped you, what would you say?**

It's funny. They write letters to the board for me and they want me to coach there kids. All I can do is thank them for what they did for me as far as life skills. I can't say I failed. I'm still making it at a later age and a later stage with different skills.

# San Quentin Programs Available to Prisoners

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ONE OF THESE PROGRAMS GO TO THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
ON THE LOWER YARD AND FILL OUT AN APPLICATION

SQUIRES	Self-Awareness & Youth Diversion
American Indian Cultural Group	American Indian Cultural Education
San Quentin Arts Program	Fine & Performing Arts Education & Demonstration
Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin	Vets Issues & Veteran-related activities
Project REACH	Peer Tutoring & Literacy Mentoring
Reaching Beyond the Walls	Missionary Awareness & Support
San Quentin Thousand Mile Club	Personal Goal Setting and Coaching
TRUST / Richmond Project-Contra Costa	Creating Values Change & Fostering Safer Communities
New Leaf on Life	Lifers Support Group
Members of Modern American Society (MOMAS)	Sustained Self Worth through Understanding and Skills Development of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Financial, Business, & Employment Technologies
Alliance for Change	Pre/Post Release Socialization of Prisoners to Increase Successful Community Reintegration
Three Strikers	Meetings held to discuss the legal and social ramifications of the law
Advocates of Better Communication	Creating better communication skills
KID Cat	Juveniles sentenced to life terms support group
ELITE	Pending Approval
STAND UP - <i>Successful Transitions and New Directions Utilizing Partnerships</i>	Three-Phased Wrap-Around Program Structure within Medium Security Dormitory Housing Unit (H-Unit). Participants are self-selected. Individual schedules are based upon Prescriptive Programming comprised of a multitude of program opportunities covering Academic, Life Skills, Cognitive Behavioral Change, Parole Planning, and Post-Release Support. Incorporates many of the individual Self-Help programs as "creditable courses" for continued enrollment in STAND UP.
Veterans Information Project	Access to Benefits & Resource Info, Discharge Upgrade
Pen Pals	Dog Fostering/Personal Responsibility Development
Centerforce Inmate Peer Health Education Training	Health Education Facilitator Training
Centerforce Inmate Peer Health Education	Health Education
Centerforce Back to Family	Family Reunification
Centerforce Couples Enhancement Workshop	Family Reunification & Case Management
Free to Succeed	Literacy & GED Prep
No More Tears	Violence Prevention Education/Mentoring/Healing Circles
IPP Katargeo	Cognitive Behavioral Change
Developing Positive Attitude	Attitudinal Healing
IPP Violence Prevention Program	Anger Management/Domestic, Gang Violence Prevention
Addiction Recovery Counseling	Addiction Recovery
Addiction Counselor Training	Addiction Recovery
IPP Victim Offender Education Group	Crime Victim Awareness/Offender Dialogue
Fathers-Literacy Program	Literacy & Parenting
Prison University Project-AA Degree & College Prep	AA Degree Program
GED Prep	GED Tutoring and Testing
This Sacred Space	Self-Examination & Meditation
Insight Prison Project Red Road to Sobriety Program	12-step with Native American Spiritual Focus
Insight Prison Project - The Work	Cognitive Behavioral Change; self-inquiry
Addiction Treatment – RC Program	
Child Support Services – RC Program	
Victim/Offender Education – RC Program	Gives prisoners the opportunity to learn insight into past behaviors and their affect on victims, the community, their family, and themselves
Insight Prison Project Mindfulness Meditation	Stress reduction program
The Green Life	Group Process/Life Skills/Environmental Awareness
Non-Violent Communications	Education & Practice for Effective Communication
Insight Prison Project Integral Health Program	Yoga, Stress Management/Health Awareness Program
Re-Start Tools	Addiction Recovery Support Group & Cognitive Behavioral Change
Insight Prison Project Brothers' Keepers Program	Suicide Awareness, Peer Support Education, Rape Trauma Counseling
Insight Garden Program	Cultivating Personal Awareness through Gardening
Prison Arts Project	Arts Programming – Fine & Performance Arts
Al-Anon	12-step Program for Family/Friends of Alcoholics
Insight Prison Project 'Orale la Raza' Program	Latino Program. Domestic Abuse, immigration issues, addiction recovery
ReEntry Action Planning	1:1 Reentry Coaching prerelease & post release follow up
CA Reentry Institute	New Program in development - Designed to address the needs of lifers as they prepare for and go through the reentry process, includes housing arrangements, job placement, education assistance, and family reunification support.
The Last Mile	Reentry Development/Preparation - Focus is on the Technology sector and being prepared to reenter society with job skills and placement directly into waiting jobs.
Stayin' Out Program	Pre-parole preparation, connections with programs halfway- homes, etc.
CA ReEntry Program	1:1 pre release Reentry Advising for Practical support issues
SQ Bike Program	Charitable Bike Refurbishing
Real Choices	Youth Diversion
Kairos	Spiritual Connection & Development
Malachi Dad	Fatherhood & Responsibility
Bible Bootcamp	Spiritual Connection & Development
IMPACT-Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things	Self-Awareness & Personal Growth
God Chasers	Spiritual Connection & Development
Spanish Bible Study	Spiritual Connection & Development
Buddhist Meditation Group	Spiritual Practice
Milatti-Islami	12-step program based on Islamic Traditions
Project Choice-Alameda	Pre/Post Release Prep and Connection to Resources
Contra Costa County Reentry Initiative	Pre/Post Release Prep and Connection to Resources
S.Q. Prison Report	TV/film production – focus on training and developing production of restorative justice programs
Creative Writing Workshop	Group meetings for discussion and evaluation of literature
San Quentin Journalism Guild	Professional journalist teach prisoners how to write news articles

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is the only prisoner-produced newspaper in the California prison system and one of the few in the world. Prisoners do the reporting and editing work inside the prison, but they need help paying to have the paper printed.

From its founding in 1940 through 2009 the paper was printed by prisoners in the print shop. But in 2010 the print shop was closed due to statewide cost cutting measures.

Since then the paper has been printed at Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. The cost has been covered by private donations through a non-profit established for that purpose, the Prison Media Project.

Those donations are shrinking and if the paper is to continue, new support is needed. Please go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), to see how you can become a supporter. You get a tax deduction...plus a year's worth of copies of the newspaper mailed to you.

Many thanks, San Quentin News Staff and Advisers.

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Think of someone you love very much. Think of all the qualities and characteristics that you love about this person. "Asked on the Line" conducted 42 random informal interviews with men in blue and teachers of the Prison University Project (PUP), and asked, "Among the qualities and characteristics of a person you love very much, which do *you* also possess?"

Some had immediate answers, but others had to think about the qualities that they like about *themselves*—that they also see in a person they love.

For mainliners, 90 percent focus on aspects of personality. Class, charm, and charisma are shared between Phil and his loved one. Dexter and a person

he loves "can love unconditionally." Michael and a person he loves are thoughtful, understanding, and accepting, while Touly and a person he loves are both "patient people." Other popular personality traits men share with someone they love include kindness, compassion, loyalty, an "outgoing personality," and a "loving spirit."

Moreover, 10 percent of mainliners loved the abilities or talents they share with their loved ones. "My baby sister and I are so much alike," said Ke. He and his sister are both competitive and persistent. Among other talents: artistic abilities in music or the visual arts, "academic intelligence," and athletic ability.

Among PUP teachers, 60 percent like that they share personality traits with a person they

love. Sarah shares "silliness" with a person she loves. Julia likes that she and a person she loves have a "sense of humor." Iris shares in empathy and creativity with the person she loves, and Diana shares in kindness, optimism and a "nurturing attitude" with a person she loves.

When it comes to abilities or talents, 40 percent of PUP teachers share them with a person they love. Jillian and a person she loves are passionate in a "pursuit of a mathematics education." Joe and a person he loves "advocate for the developmentally disabled." Lisa likes that she and a person she loves both "act on what we believe in." Kony shares "musicality" with a person she loves, and Christina has "the ability to focus on the needs" of one another.

## News Briefs

**SAN FRANCISCO** - The death sentence for a man convicted of killing a woman who was robbed, raped, tortured and beaten has been reversed by the California Supreme Court. The ruling upheld the first-degree murder conviction of Kevin Pearson, 34, but ordered a new penalty hearing. The court said that trial judge erroneously granted a prosecution request to excuse a potential juror because she gave conflicting responses when asked whether she could vote for the death penalty.

**SACRAMENTO** - Nevada prisoners will wear shoes manufactured by California prisoners. The Nevada Board of Examiners approved a \$200,000, two-year contract with California Prison Industries for the shoes.

**SACRAMENTO** - The California State Assembly is considering easing restrictions for

members of the press to interview prisoners. The legislation, AB1270, passed unanimously out of the Public Safety Committee Jan. 10 and moved to the Appropriations Committee.

**SACRAMENTO** - General fund spending on prisons is about twice that of Jerry Brown's Republican predecessor, Arnold Schwarzenegger. The budget was \$5.2 billion in 2004 and is \$9.5 billion in 2011. The spending increase was mostly created when the prison population exploded during the 1990s and then a 2011 court order forced prison officials to improve medical care.

**CHILE** - Government officials want to build four new prisons by using California's Solano State Prison as a model. Minister of Justice Teodoro Ribera submitted a proposal for the new prison system to President

Sebastián Piñera on the one-year anniversary of a fire at San Miguel Prison, where 81 prisoners died and 14 others were injured.

**OAKLAND** - A federal judge has ordered the state to do a better job of monitoring care of disabled parolees in county jails, saying "overwhelming and disturbing evidence" shows they are denied adequate care. U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken ruled state officials must give every county a daily list of disabled parolees in its jail and ensure they receive adequate care.

**SAN QUENTIN** - Death Row prisoner Rodney Alcala is facing charges of strangling two women in New York. Extradition was stayed until his appeal is settled. He is facing execution for murdering four women and a 12-year-old girl in Orange County.

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**JULY 4, 1980** - Three shots were fired on the C-Section yard to break up a fight between three convicts. One con was injured by birdshot, while another suffered a broken jaw, according to Mike Madding, prison spokesperson.

**JULY 4, 1980** - Following a bloody riot in Feb. at the New Mexico State Penitentiary, 13 of 41 guards hired since then have quit.

**JULY 4, 1980** - A nine-day lockdown of Chicano inmates at S.Q. has been lifted. The lockdown came as the result of a stabbing of a Chicano inmate June 17 on the lower yard.

**JULY 4, 1980** - Country Joe and the Fish and The Rick and Ruby Show will headline the annual Fourth of July show on the lower yard. The entertainment looks to be of high quality and all are welcome to enjoy.

**JULY 4, 1980** - A Juneteenth celebration was held last Saturday in the north dining hall. Several prison bands provided the entertainment along with some outside guests.

**JULY 4, 1980** - Nine shots were fired on the Protective Housing Unit AC yard to break up a fistfight between a Mexican-American and a white prisoner. Both men suffered multiple birdshot wounds and were taken to the prison hospital.

**SEPT. 19, 1980** - "Little John" Seaman, 29, was assaulted and stabbed several times Sept. 9 on the lower yard in the Coyote Park area. He was admitted to the hospital in good condition, according to acting prison information officer Lt. Silva. Three knives were found in the park area, but none were believed to have been involved

in the assault. Five inmates are being held for investigation.

**MAY 23, 1980** - Mothers and fathers traveled as far as 600 miles away in order to spend Mother's Day with their convict sons on the prison's annual Family Day Event. Approximately 100 convicts attended the event, which included breakfast in the north dining hall.

**JUNE 13, 1980** - A class in "Dream Work" will be offered, tentatively starting July 14. The classes for 12 interested inmates will meet once a week for one and a half hours. Members will learn techniques to improve dream recall and understanding, and how to explore their inner potential for growth.

**JUNE 13, 1980** - Four armed men invaded the District of Columbia prison in the Virginia suburbs and killed an inmate.

## Corrections

The three strikes article that appeared in the January edition mistakenly indicated that a prior conviction for robbery would exclude an offender from being resentenced. That was wrong.

The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012 currently gathering signatures for the November ballot states that the following prior convictions will exclude offenders currently imprisoned under three strikes from being resentenced:

- a sexually violent offense child molestation
- homicide offenses, including any attempted homicide offense
- solicitation to commit murder
- assault with a machine gun on a peace officer or firefighter
- possession of a weapon of mass destruction
- any serious and/or violent felony punishable in California by life imprisonment or death

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

## San Quentin News

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[www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com)  
or  
[http://www.cder.ca.gov/Visitors/San\\_Quentin\\_News/SQ-San\\_Quentin\\_News.html](http://www.cder.ca.gov/Visitors/San_Quentin_News/SQ-San_Quentin_News.html)

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

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Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

Protestors near San Quentin's main entrance

## Occupy Protestors Rally for Reform

By Clarence R. Bailey  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Occupy movement has expanded to include San Quentin Prison.

On the President's Day holiday, several hundred protesters arrived for an "Occupy4Prisoners" just outside the San Quentin

East Gate. They demonstrated peacefully for prison reform, calling for:

- Abolishing the death penalty, life without the possibility of parole, three strikes, juvenile life without parole, and trying children as adults.

See *Occupy* on Page 6

## 'Last Mile' Course Touts Business Technology

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin's newest program, The Last Mile, teaches incarcerated men advanced business ideas and technology. Prisoners learn to use social media to tweet, blog, answer questions and connect with professional investors.

Kathleen Jackson, a highly respected mentor to incarcerated men, set up the program. Jackson collaborated with Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti, venture capitalists from Silicon Valley to create the program's curriculum.

"The mission of The Last Mile program is to bridge the gap between the penal system and the technology business sector," said Redlitz. "The goal of the program is to provide practical training so that participants have marketable business skills upon release. The program trains selected prisoners for potential employment in a paid internship program within the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley technology sector, and also helps them develop business ideas that they can pursue in the future. Training includes verbal and written communica-

To read what S.Q. prisoners have to say about the Occupy movement, see *Asked On The Line*. Turn to page 8.

## Three Strikes Group Holds First Graduation

By Joan Lisetor  
San Quentin News Adviser

"Enduring Hope for Enduring Change" was the theme for the Hope for Strikers Group's first graduation held March 9 in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel.

Master of ceremonies Marco Davidson welcomed the audience of approximately 80 prisoners, staff and advisers. Davidson and Joe Mason opened the ceremony with a guitar duet. Speakers that followed emphasized the group's mission and shared personal experiences. A keynote address was given by radio personality and author Nancy Mullane.

The mission of the group, according to Davidson, is to pro-

## T.R.U.S.T. Annual Graduation Honors 22 New Members

By Richard Richardson  
Graphics Editor

Prisoners and community volunteers gathered in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel in early March to attend the eighth annual graduation of 22 new members of San Quentin's T.R.U.S.T. program. T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) seeks to motivate, educate, prepare, and assist men in prison for release to their communities.

Kathleen Jackson said the anxiety associated with being newly released from prison would be lessened if the process of transitioning back to the community began while incarcerated. She joined T.R.U.S.T. in 2006 and supports the men by connecting them with community volunteers.



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

T.R.U.S.T. graduation members and staff

Family counselor Ameeta Singh teaches the importance of healthy family relationships by showing effective self-expression. She says that her work with the men promotes the health and wellness of the family unit, which in turn improves the community. Graduates of the six-

month program were: Binh Vo, Nelson T. Butler, Henry Montgomery, Gary Calhoun, Robert Watts, Wayne R. Villafranco, Orlando L. Harris, Gilbert Joseph Briones, Rodger Tillman, Touly S. Vang, Dennis Pratt,

See *T.R.U.S.T.* on Page 4

## Homeboy Industries Comes to San Quentin

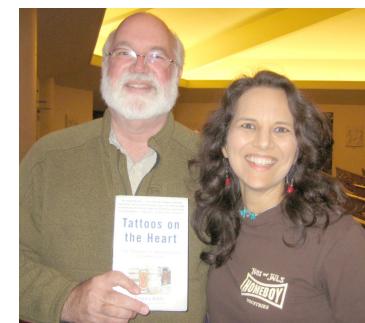
By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-chief

Father Greg Boyle buried a youngster killed by gang violence in 1988. Two weeks before Christmas 2011, he did it for the 180th time.

Father Boyle said there was a time when the people in his neighborhood didn't feel safe walking the streets because of the ongoing gang warfare. They leaned mattresses against their front windows to stop stray bullets. Father Boyle felt compelled to start a movement – without guns – to get gang bangers off the streets and into jobs. He created Homeboy Industries.

Homeboy Industries was formed when Father Boyle was a pastor at Delores Mission, the poorest parish in Los Angeles. The parish is located between two public housing projects, Pico Garden and Aliso Village. According to Los Angeles Police Department, it has the highest concentration of gang activity in the entire city. Father Boyle didn't know this when he took the position.

Homeboy Industries supports at-risk, recently released, and formerly gang involved youth in becoming contributing members of their communities through a variety of services -- including counsel-



Father Greg Boyle  
And Rose Elizondo

ing, education, tattoo removal, ending substance abuse and addiction assistance, job training and job placement.

"I was intrigued by his talk on restorative justice and gang violence. I wanted him to speak to the men of San Quentin," said Rose Elizondo, facilitator to San Quentin's Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable.

Father Boyle addressed more than 100 San Quentin prisoners in its Catholic Chapel. He said, "For the last 25 years, it's been a privilege to work with ex-gang members. It's very important to listen to what these young kids are saying in order to understand their needs."

He told the men, "I'm honored to be here. We are in a place where we are trying to make something positive hap-



Danny Chavarria receiving his certificate

his family's migration in 1981 to "the land of opportunity, where you will succeed if you work hard."

See *Hope for Strikers* on Page 4

See *Teaching Business* on Page 4

See *Fathers Boyle's* on Page 6

# Radio Personality Speaks With S.Q. Jailhouse Lawyers

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

When prisoners want to have their legal claims heard by the courts, access to qualified legal assistance is scant. This shortfall has given birth to the "Jailhouse Lawyer."

In 1996, the U.S. Congress placed limits on prisoners' ability to file actions in federal courts by enacting the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). Subsequently, prison reform advocates have criticized the PLRA as too restrictive, because of the stringent requirements to which prisoners must adhere for a court hearing.

Independent reporter and producer Nancy Mullane of National Public Radio (NPR) ventured inside of San Quentin's library recently to talk with prison-

ers. She wanted to find out how they navigate their way through our legal system to present their claims in court.

The library was full of about 25 prisoners reading legal books, hunched over computers, or conversing about legal topics. The prisoners were eager to show Mullane their claims and to tell her why they were researching the law.

"The system provides several avenues for prisoners to address anything from a faulty conviction to inadequate medical care, or an arbitrary action by the prison administration. Few prisoners are sufficiently educated in matters of law to effectively redress those complaints in a meaningful way," said one Jailhouse Lawyer, who didn't want his name used. "The reason I



Photo Sgt. Gabe Walters.

NPR's Nancy Mullane

assist others is because they don't have access to *any* help in righting a wrong done to them. Assistance may be something as simple as helping them to determine what form is needed to file a grievance or as complex as formulating a habeas petition that effectively states a cognizable claim and that will allow them a fair opportunity to be heard in court."

Mullane is the executive producer of "The Life of the Law," a new NPR radio show that will air her visit to San Quentin's library in April.

## United States Has World's Highest Rate of Incarceration

By Paul Stauffer  
Journalism Guild Writer

The United States has the world's highest rate of incarceration or "correctional control," and one of the causes is changes in sentencing laws.

According to various reports, during the 1980s, the United States locked up around 200 people per 100,000 of the population. By 2010, that number more than tripled to 731 per 100,000.

Today, roughly six million Americans are under some kind of "correctional supervision" - that's more than at the peak of the Stalin era gulags, reports the New Yorker in a recent article. The story spotlights America's extensive prison system where "huge numbers of whom are serving sentences much longer than

those given for similar crimes anywhere else in the civilized world."

From 1980 to 2003, California prisons have quadrupled their population even though violent crime has remained relatively constant or even declined, according to the American Society of Criminology.

The increases were most pronounced in the use of life prison sentences - upped by 83 percent between 1992 and 2003, Wikipedia notes.

The percentage of prisoners in state and federal prisons aged 55 and older increased by 33 percent from 2000 to 2005 while the prison population grew by only eight percent.

California's fastest growing age category are those prisoners over the age 55, according to the Human Rights Watch. Ronald Aday, a professor of aging, predicts 16 percent of those serving

life sentences will be elderly by 2020.

Prison administrators around the country report spending more than 10 percent of their state's annual budget on elderly prisoner care, Wikipedia finds.

California currently has 8,780 Three Strikers; 25,135 lifers with the possibility of parole; 4,303 serving life without the possibility of parole; and 715 condemned.

*Editor's Note: This article utilized data from: The Sentencing Project: The State of Sentencing, 2011; Prison Census Data as of June 2011; PEW One in 31, The Long Reach of American Corrections; American Society of Criminology; The New Yorker magazine, Wikipedia, and Human Rights Watch.*

*-Juan Haines contributed to this story.*

## Private Corporation Submits Bid to Purchase State Prisons

By Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer

Nashville-based Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) is offering to purchase state prisons in exchange for various considerations, including a controversial guarantee that the governments maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate for at least 20 years, according to articles in USA Today and The Associated Press.

The \$250 million proposal, circulated to prison officials in 48 states, has been criticized by some state officials who suggest such a program could pres-

sure criminal justice officials to seek harsher prison sentences to maintain the contractually required occupancy rates.

"You don't want a prison system operating with the goal of maximizing profits," said Texas state Sen. John Whitmire (D). "The only thing worse is that this seeks to take advantage of some states' troubled financial position."

Corrections Corporation spokesman Steve Owen defended the firm's "investment initiative" as "an additional option" for cash-strapped states to consider.

The proposal seeks to build upon a deal reached last fall in which CCA purchased a 1,798-bed prison from the state of Ohio for \$72.7 million.

Roger Werholtz, former Kansas secretary of corrections, said states may be tempted by the "quick infusion of cash" but he would recommend against such a deal.

"My concern would be that our state would be obligated to maintain occupancy rates and subtle pressure would be applied to make sentencing laws more severe with a clear intent to drive up the population."

## Conservative Politicians Call for Prison Reform

Conservative prison reformers acknowledge that locking up and throwing away the key as a solution for career criminals has borne an unintended consequence. It exposes non-violent, low-risk offenders to bad influences - making them a greater risk to the public once they are released.

"The criminal justice arena is starved for conservative solutions for reducing crime, restoring victims, reforming offenders, and lowering costs," the group said on its web site.

The group, named Right on Crime, includes presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, and tax reformer Grover Norquist.

The organization calls for transparency in governmental operations of prisons, and demand that public safety, personal responsibility, work, restitution, community service, and treatment should be a priority. In addition, victims should be treated with "dignity and respect - with an opportunity to participate, receive restitution, and even be reconciled with offenders." They would like to see more involvement from the offenders' family, charities, and faith-based groups.

The group wants the juvenile justice system to employ policies that send a clear message to youngsters at the time of the illegal behavior rather than waiting for violations to pile up and then locking them up. Proven approaches to reduce juvenile crime include teen courts, community service, student behavior contracts, student behavior accounts, peer mediation and keeping juve-

niles closer to home. Right on Crime advocates for policies that review sentences of juveniles years after imprisonment to see if they are fit to return to society.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry commented, "I believe we can take an approach to crime that is both tough and smart. ... [T]here are thousands of non-violent offenders in the system whose future we cannot ignore. Let's focus more resources on rehabilitating those offenders so we can ultimately spend less money locking them up again."

**"The criminal justice arena is starved for conservative solutions for reducing crime, restoring victims, reforming offenders and lowering costs."**

Right on Crime advocates say that if crime reduction rates do not correspond with the amount of money spent in corrections, then a change in policy is needed. Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas were looked at as examples that followed this idea.

Former President George W. Bush is quoted as saying, "We know from long experience that if [former prisoners] can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison. ... America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."

## New Report Highlights Hidden Prison Expenses

A new report shows that most states under-report the cost of prisons. "Prison costs outside the corrections budget fall under three categories: (1) costs that are centralized for administrative purposes, such as employee benefits and capital costs; (2)

inmate services funded through other agencies, such as education and training programs; and (3) the cost of under-funded pension and retiree health care plans," reports The Vera Institute of Justice, in conjunction with the Pew Center on the States' Public Safety Performance Project.

Vera examined corrections budgets for 40 states and found that cost was about 14 percent

higher than reported. The states reported spending a combined \$33.6 billion. However, after factoring in the costs "outside the corrections budget," an additional \$5.4 billion showed that the real cost for corrections was \$39 billion. The report found that the growth in states' corrections budgets has been because of policy choices, not "social or economic trends beyond policy makers' influence."

Vera suggest that states can develop practices that protect public safety and control correctional costs by reviewing sentencing and release policies, focusing on recidivism reduction strategies, and by operating prisons more efficiently.

# New Tools Trying to Curb Use of Prison Cell Phones

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last year a pilot program detected over 2,500 unique wireless signals and blocked another 24,000 "unauthorized communication" attempts in two of its 33 prisons, California prison officials report.

The Managed Access System was designed to test a new technology in order to stop the widespread unauthorized inmates use of cell phones.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed the emergency legislation, SB26, authored by Sen. Alex Padilla.

The legislation now makes it a misdemeanor for anyone who has a cell phone or wireless

communication device with the intent to give it to an inmate. The crime is punishable by six months in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 per device.

Visitors who bring these wireless devices or any related components into the prison without the intent to place them in an inmate's possession would have the devices or components temporarily confiscated.

Brown issued an executive order directing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to conduct more thorough searches for contraband communication devices and to increase the penalty for inmates who are found guilty of possession of contraband devices.

Prison officials have re-defined cell phones as dangerous contraband. Inmates found guilty of possession of a cell phone or wireless communication device will be subject to loss of "good time" credit of up to 90 days.

The new legislation and its corresponding change to prison regulations comes at a time when the number of cell phones confiscated each year by prison officials has increased by the thousands.

CDCR reports prison officials seized 261 cell phones from inmates in 2006, nearly 1,400 in 2007, approximately 2,800 in 2008, about 6,995 in 2009, another 10,761 in 2010, and 9,935 from January to August of 2011.

## Initiative to End Death Penalty Heads to Voters on 2012 Ballot

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

For the first time since 1978, California voters may be able to decide whether to keep the death penalty as the harshest way to punish murders. The initiative needs slightly more than 504,000 registered voter signatures to qualify for the November ballot. Organizers collected more than 800,000 signatures and turned them into the secretary of state's office for verification.

If approved, the Savings, Accountability, Full Enforcement Act would amend the death sentences of the state's 725 Death Row prisoners to life in prison

without parole and abolish the death penalty as an option in murder cases.

"(This) will put an end to its intolerable risk and exorbitant cost," said Jeanne Woodford. "California voters are ready to replace the death penalty with life in prison with no chance of parole."

Woodford once headed California's prison system. She was also a San Quentin warden and oversaw four executions. She now heads the anti-capital-punishment group Death Penalty Focus.

California has had 13 executions since restoring capital

punishment in 1978 - prompting even some leading death penalty supporters to question its feasibility. "I don't think it is working. It's not effective. We know that," said state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

A 2011 study found that the state spends \$184 million a year on death penalty cases and incarceration. That same study, by U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Arthur L. Alarcon and Loyola Law School Professor Paula M. Mitchell, reported that taxpayers have spent more than \$4 billion on capital punishment since it was reinstated in 1978.

## Ex-Prisoner Visits the Vocational Shop That Gave Him a Foothold on Parole

By Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer

Ed Ramirez says he's grateful for the sheet metal vocational skills he mastered in San Quentin State Prison. He says they opened the door to an opportunity of a lifetime when he was paroled seven years ago.

Union representative Frank Cuneo accompanied Ramirez on a recent visit to his former prison shop. He commented, "Ed's achievements have been nothing short of remarkable. He has accomplished so much, but it all began right here at San Quentin, in this shop."

Cuneo told the current shop students, "You can do the same thing, if you want it. It's possible to earn an \$80 an hour employment package if you're willing to do the work."

Ramirez served 23 years at San Quentin before he was paroled in May 2005. He excelled in the vocational class, perfecting his skills under the tutelage of instructor Keith Baughn.

Upon parole, Ramirez applied for a sheet metal apprenticeship. Although he had developed advanced abilities in the trade, he had to begin at the bottom rung, starting with the application process, and advancing through a successful five-year apprenticeship program to obtain journeyman status.

***"Ed's achievements have been nothing short of remarkable. It all started here at San Quentin."***

Ramirez returned to San Quentin to share his personal success story. He described what he had been able to accomplish since leaving prison with a little determination and hard work. He encouraged students to apply themselves seriously, and told them about the realities of what they could expect once they paroled.

"It wasn't easy, starting at the bottom, once I got out. But this program gave me a huge advantage over the other applicants. I could identify the tools and recognize the work processes that put me miles ahead of everyone else. I had to be patient and work my way up. I showed up on time prepared for work. I developed a reputation for producing quality work, because that is your signature to employers," Ramirez said.

Ramirez stated he got his priorities straightened out. "When I was in prison, I used to hate those painted yellow lines telling me where the boundaries are. Now, I paint those boundary lines around myself to keep me safe."

Cuneo emphasized the need to be dependable. He detailed the minimum qualifications necessary to begin the application process, such as, age, a clean DMV record, and reliable transportation, as well as an aptitude for basic math.



San Quentin Nurse Jamie Molina

Official Photo .

## There's a Secret To Creating Quality Prison Health Care

By Arnulfo Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

The secret to quality medical care for prisoners is hiring people who really want to work behind the walls, says Jamie Molina, a Licensed Vocational Nurse at San Quentin's medical facility.

"I'm very fortunate to be an LVN within the department. I love working with my health care team. I know at this point, I wouldn't want to work anywhere else. That's what I would say to the receiver. 'Get people who really want to be here.'"

"When I graduated from nursing school, I swore to render care and asked no questions about those under my care," said Molina. "I'm not here to decide who does or does not get care. I take my oath about caring for everyone very seriously, especially for those in blue."

Molina's career began in 2007, with a three-year stint at Pelican Bay.

He grew up in the rough and gang-infested neighborhoods of Los Angeles. Molina says he feels lucky to get out of that en-

vironment, adding that working in the prison's medical department is his way of giving back to the community.

He credits his success for overcoming the odds of getting away from that negative environment to his parents.

"It was stable in that I had two parents," he said. "My father was pretty intelligent. He had a scholarship to go to Jalisco, Mexico for medical school, but he never pursued it."

He now realizes that his father's decision not to go to Mexico created his stable upbringing. "Most people in prison don't have that kind of support," Molina commented.

Molina compared the high stress atmosphere of Pelican Bay to San Quentin's high level of programs available to prisoners, and commented, "If the rest of California prisons mimicked the programs available at San Quentin, some of the problems with our high recidivism will be solved."

*—Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.*

## Realignment Plan Creates County Jail Bed Shortages

- Madera County will spend \$34 million on a jail expansion project to add 144 beds.
- Calaveras County is going ahead with a \$36 million project to build 95 additional beds to its jail.
- Santa Barbara County will receive \$56 million for construction of 304 new beds.
- Amador County will receive a \$22 million grant through AB 900 to expand its jail by 89 beds.
- San Benito County will receive \$15 million for a 60-bed expansion from AB 900.
- San Joaquin County will expand its jail by 1,280 beds, costing \$80 million.
- San Luis Obispo County will get a \$25 million grant from AB 900 to build 155 new jail beds.

# T.R.U.S.T. Praises Graduates

*Continued from Page 1*

Moses Jesus Duran, Trenton W. Capell, Nguyenly D. Nguyen, Eric Boles, Michael Endres, Lorenzo Romero, Eric Phillips, Eric Womack, James Asoau, and Kevork Parsakian. After the ceremony, several graduates explained how T.R.U.S.T. influenced their lives.

**ROMERO:** "I learned how to have respect for myself and others. I also learned better communication skills. I will put all the tools I've learned into practice, as well as share these tools with others."

**WATTS:** "T.R.U.S.T. opened the door for me to step up and join other groups. I joined the Alliance Group."

**ENDRES:** "I learned a lot about myself, which gave me so much insight. T.R.U.S.T. provided us with so much information. Anyone serious about change has to go through the T.R.U.S.T. process. I will continue to work on change and apply it to my life."

**WOMACK:** "I learned that I'm a better person than I was before and I'll be a better asset to my community and the past does not define me any more. I'm in college and the California Reentry Institute program. I am glad I came to San Quentin. It allowed me to see things from a different perspective, which made me proud of who I am today."

**BRIONES:** "I'm able to be more sociable. I took advantage of all of the information they provided. What really got me



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

## T.R.U.S.T. volunteers, facilitators and Captain Robinson

was the mock board hearing. It scared me, because it showed me that I must face reality, and to see how serious things are. I'm so glad to have this opportunity and graduate."

**VO:** "I learned new tools on how to manage my anger. And, I learned to take care of myself so that I can take care of others."

**VANG:** "T.R.U.S.T. made me think about my life outside the institution and what to expect when I get out. They taught me how to network and how to be respectful, not only to the family, but to the community. Now I think about taking things more seriously when it comes to life choices and now I want to serve the community. The members of T.R.U.S.T. were very supportive, and they help me in every curriculum that T.R.U.S.T. provided."

**VILLAFRANCO:** "It was a beautiful and interesting challenge because I learned new ideas and methods of how to deal with everyday issues. The experience taught me how to deal with family problems and how to attend to their

needs more so than my own. T.R.U.S.T. provided me with the tools to go out and seek help from those who are working to help me. The members were very generous and were attentive to what I had to say."

**HARRIS:** "The volunteers offer a lot of insight to the things we talk about. The psychologist gives us techniques that help us stay centered and focused on our tasks. Her suggestions are always helpful, because her perspective is respected. Other volunteers encourage us to get involved with our community. They keep us well-connected to our community and that's important for us."

**DURAN:** "The life skills I learned will benefit me here, and will be a benefit to the community that I will parole to. I learned people skills. I gained insight about myself, and what it will take for me to stay out in the free world."

Warden Kevin Chappelle attended the event. Neu Dae provided gospel music with a band that included talented guitarist Marco Davidson.

# Teaching Business Technology

*Continued from Page 1*

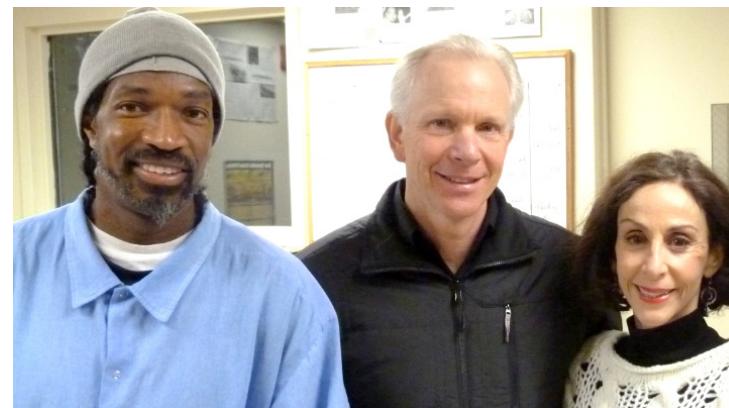
tion and presentation skills, business formation and operation processes, and computer proficiency."

Parenti said, "Prior to coming inside of San Quentin, my perception was formed by the media – never a first-hand experience until meeting the men of The Last Mile."

The current program has five men, who were invited and accepted through a specific selection process.

The men were considered for participation after demonstrating adequate communication skills, completing advanced prosocial programs, participating in the Prison University Project, and being recommended by San Quentin's administration.

The current members include James Houston, Eric "Phil" Phillips, Chrisfino Keiyatta Leal, James "JC" Cavitt and David Monroe.



Eric Phillips, Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti

The men commented on the impact that The Last Mile has had on their lives.

Phillips said, "My project is a music production idea that I expect to be a part of the next generation of the social media."

"The Last Mile is the bridge that connects incarcerated men with the technology sector," said Cavitt. "I see this as a huge blessing, not only to show that I have what it takes, but to also show those in the business sector that guys incarcerated have what it takes to succeed in the business world."

"This program gives me the tools and confidence, after doing so much time in prison, to believe that I will be successful

in society, once I am released," Houston said.

Monroe said, "I think that The Last Mile represents hope. I came to prison when I was 15, so I had no knowledge or skills about the working world. This program gives me the confidence that I can be returned to my community with the skills that I need to succeed."

"The Last Mile is a unique opportunity for me to learn some fundamental skills revolving around business and technology. It is my hope to take what I've learned from this program and use it upon my release. My project is a special combination of sports and cutting edge technology," said Leal.

# U.S. Supreme Court To Hear Race Case

**By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Editor**

The subject of race and admissions policy for state universities is once again before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abigail Fisher, a Texas resident, is challenging the admission policy of the University of Texas after she was denied undergraduate admission.

The University of Texas molded its admissions system after a 2003 Supreme Court case, ruling that universities may "narrowly tailor [the] use of race in admissions decisions to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body." The case, *Grutter v. Bollinger*,

also determined that any race-conscious measures must be limited in time.

In previous decisions, the Supreme Court recognized that a diverse student body serves educational objectives by providing increased perspectives in the classroom and prepares students in their professions.

Fisher is asking the Supreme Court to reconsider or overrule *Grutter*. However, she has not argued that the state university does not have a compelling interest in assembling a racially diverse student body. Propponents of affirmative action say that they are apprehensive that the Supreme Court will use this case to ban affirmative action.

# 'Hope for Strikers' Group Graduation

*Continued from Page 1*

"Where my family saw hope and hard work equaling success, I saw a bunch of racism, poverty and dope," he said. "Not knowing your full potential or self-worth, you jeopardize your life. Know thyself first."

Forrest Jones assisted in the presentation of certificates to 32 graduates of the program.

"Be proud of your accomplishments and the changes in yourselves," he told the graduates.

Mullane recalled her first visit to San Quentin when she was a reporter assigned to write a story about prisons.

"It was one of the most interesting days of my life. It changed my life. I thought I knew what people are like who commit crimes," said Mullane, who has written a book, "Life after Murders," which follows the lives of five men paroled despite serving life sentences for murder. The book is due in June.

The group lists five beliefs:

- That the Three Strikes Law is fundamentally unjust, politically motivated, grossly disproportionate and needs to be amended.
- That without the aid of Hope for Strikers, we are powerless to appropriately address the detrimental impact it has had on our lives and the lives of our loved ones.
- That any reform in the law has to be preceded by reform in our own spiritual and intellectual selves, as well as our behaviors.
- That Hope for Strikers curriculum provides the requisite academic and self-help tools needed to accomplish our goals and transition back into society as productive citizens.
- That we must always hold on to hope for reform and continue to convey our message in meaningful ways to give hope to those Three Strikers whose resolve may have deteriorated.

# S.Q. Library Sees Its Hours Reduced

**By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer**

Due to California's budget woes, San Quentin's library hours have been reduced for the mainline population. The change resulted from cutting the library staff from three to two.

Staff Librarian Tom Brobst said he will keep the facility open under reduced hours, with Saturday hours eliminated.

More than 3,000 San Quentin prisoners use the library for legal, recreational and educational reading and research. Brobst said prisoner staff will continue to respond to written requests from Condemned Row.

Former hours for mainline prisoners were Monday through Saturday from 12:30–2:30 p.m. and 6:30–8 p.m.

The new hours are: Tuesday: mainline, 12:30–3 p.m. and 5:30–8 p.m.

Wednesday: reception center, 8:30–12:30 a.m.; mainline, noon – 2:30 p.m.

Thursday: mainline, 12:30–3 p.m. and 5:30–8 p.m.

Friday: reception center, 8:30–12:30 a.m.; mainline, noon–2:30 p.m.

The former evening and Saturday sessions were particularly important for prisoners who work during the day.

# SPORTS

## A Giant Interview

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

*Michael Anthony Tyler of the San Quentin Giants baseball team discusses his sports and life experiences.*

**What organized sports team did you play for growing up?**

I played outside linebacker for the Los Banos Tigers. My coach said he needed a linebacker and so I tapped him on his back and I said I'd play.

**Who introduced you to sports?**

I was introduced to sports by my step-dad. When I was younger, my step-dad and I played catch with the baseball and football.

**Who was your mentor?**

I was pretty much on my own. I didn't have too many people who tried to mentor me. But, because of the issues I was going through, I didn't really see if any one was trying to mentor me.

**Did your family come and watch your football games?**

I never had any of my family show up at the games. I'd ask my mother, but she never came. She always had an excuse. So, I started playing for myself.

**Who are your mentors now?**

Jim Buckley, my best friend's dad. He acknowledges me as his son. I acknowledge him as Pops. I have mentors in here too that I look up to. To me a mentor is not based on one's age but one's character, and the values that he holds.

**What teams are you currently playing on?**

I play for the S.Q. flag football team and I play second base and catcher for the S.Q. Giants baseball team.

**How has playing organized sports help you deal with your incarceration?**

For me it doesn't matter whether I was playing in prison or on the streets. I was free. Playing sports helped me with my discipline. Sports helped me to remember that I have to work as a team. Playing within the rules, I do what

I have to do to get out of prison that's within the rules.

**Do you consider yourself a student athlete?**

I believe I will always be a student. I think once I say that I'm a master at something, it shuts down all possibilities of

learning.

**What programs are you a part of in San Quentin?**

I'm the education committee chairman for T.R.U.S.T., a member of San Quentin's S.Q.U.I.R.E.S. (San Quentin's Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies), V.O.E.G. (Victim Offender Education Group) and others."

**What would you tell kids that are going through what you've been through as a teenager?**

I would tell them to speak up and that there is a difference from acting out as opposed to speaking up. It's alright to ask for help because it's your life that is at stake. I didn't know I had the empowerment to speak up.

*-Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to the story-*



Giant Michael A. Tyler

Official Photo

## Four Athletes Offer Insights On Playing San Quentin Sports

Here are comments from incarcerated men who are players of San Quentin sports teams. They discussed whether playing organized sports in San Quentin helps them to relive past dreams.

**Sean Simms**, All Madden linebacker: I never had any dreams or aspirations to play sports. However, playing organized sports here in San Quentin has giving me a chance to experience what attending school and playing sports must be like. I now have a high respect for student-athletes who not only achieve in sports but also excel in their academics.

**Chris Marshall Sr.**, San Quentin Giants outfielder: Playing sports in San Quentin has nothing to do, for me that is, to be able to relive past dreams. At my age, I don't have the same physical abilities I had in my teens and early 20s. But what I do have is more self-discipline and knowledge of the game I'm playing, and my body's new abilities or lack thereof, which causes me to try to make better decisions, decisions that won't hurt my team's effort towards the goal we have together.

**Nghiep "Ke" Lam**, San Quentin A's, shortstop and



Nghiep Ke Lam in front of the score board

pitcher: Playing for the San Quentin A's fulfilled my childhood dream to play for the Oakland Athletics. Growing up I was a huge fan of the A's, even though I grew up in San Francisco. My favorite player all-time is Ricky Henderson. I never thought I would ever play for the A's after being incarcerated at the age of 17.

**Richard "Mujahid" Munns**, San Quentin Warriors shooting forward: Coming from a background filled with athletes competing on all levels, playing for the San Quentin Warriors basketball team has offered me the opportunity to

relive a time from my past that I remembered as being a very happy and positive time in my life. When I'm out there on the court, I don't have a worry in the world. In essence, I escape to a place where there is still hope. And even though the reality of my hoop-dreams are a thing in the past, playing here in S.Q., and still being able to compete with the younger guys, helps me to forget, for a few hours, my reality...and puts me back in front of thousands of screaming fans, both for and against the Warriors.

*-Gary Scott*

## Coach Harris Looking for Kings

Head Coach Orlando Harris says tryouts gave him a good look at the over-40 men who will make up the San Quentin Kings basketball team, and he's planning to focus on conditioning and defense.

"I was looking for personality, for individual players to come out to be competitive, some one who is going to be a positive influence, someone who has integrity and will make a contribution. I was definitely looking for good athletes over 40. I was trying to weave together a team that can work towards a common goal," said Coach Harris.

He mentions the strategies that he will implement for his team to be successful. He expressed, "Being that we are 40 and over, I don't see us getting into a track meet. I'm focused on defense. We have to play towards our strengths. We will run when we can,



Coach Orlando Harris

throw the ball down low, and work the ball inside out. We will do the fundamentals it takes to win and that is rebound, box out and whatever it takes to win. Conditioning and defense is the key to being successful."

Coach Harris explains what it means to play on the 40 and over basketball team. He says, "It gives men an opportunity to come out and still continue

to play ball in a structured league. It paints a picture of them working together and gives an opportunity to be an example to younger incarcerated men, to show them the importance of working as a team... It gives them a chance to get away from prison, to play against men on the streets and be human."

"Training camp is going to be difficult task to get the players in shape in order to put us in position to win. It's going to be difficult getting guys to believe in my philosophy and trust that I know what I am doing and my ability to coach. If they buy in to my philosophy, then we will win," said Harris.

Training camp for Kings will be on Wednesdays and Fridays nights. It will start soon after they receive scheduling from cardholders.

*-Gary Scott*

## 'Too Many' Good Warrior Candidates at Tryouts

**"30 Players tried out for the Warriors. The difficulty lies in the fact that only 16 to 20 players will be able to make it on the training camp rooster."**

in the fact that only 16 to 20 players will be able to make it on the training camp roster. He noted a couple of players caught his eye and are for sure Warriors.

Asked what he was expecting to see during tryouts, he said, "Attitude and talent.

About 30 players tried out for the Warriors. The difficulty lies

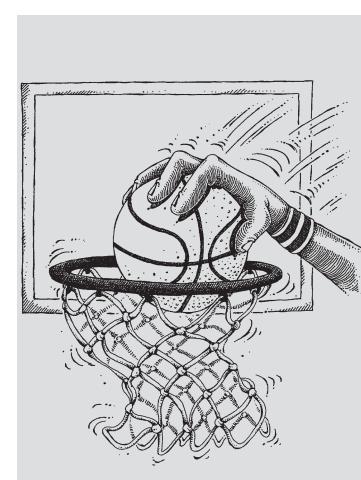
And also, who I thought would fit good in the Warrior program and the Christian program we have here. A good attitude is the number one quality a player will have in this program. I will accept good attitude over talent, if I have to."

He explained that there will be no profanity or derogatory language.

He said the type of system that he is going to run is a fast break, up-tempo, man-to-man system because it dictates the pace of the game.

Training camp will be on Tuesday and Thursday nights in March.

*-Gary Scott*



# S.Q. News Missed the Boat On Black History Month

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

Last month was Black History Month. It passed by like any other month, but I should have given it more of my attention. This newspaper should have given it more attention. I read my usual daily newspaper, my national news magazines and even watched some television. None of this media seemed to make a big hoopla about our special month. Sure, there were television shows, PBS specials and the like, but no huge national celebration like, say, Saint Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo.

Consequently, I have to ask what it says about our nation, more importantly the Black community, and me. Should Black Americans take to the streets and holler, "I'm Black and I'm proud"? Would we? Or maybe a better question is whether America is ready to have its Black citizens drinking beer and dancing in the streets with racial pride like other citizens do. Or would the police show up in riot gear? I won't pretend to know the answers to these questions.

I do know that many of the African American men who

## Opinion



Photo Sgt. Gabe Walters

Aly Tamboura

should be celebrating the rich history of American blackness are in prison. All I have to do is look to the gleaming brown faces on the yard here at San Quentin and I can see what the legacy of slavery, continued bigotry, and the American judicial system thinks about Black History Month...and us.

Over 40 percent of the men at this prison are Black: Despairingly, we are being sent to prison. Most of us know the statistics but how many of us ask ourselves why? Why do we

sell drugs to our own people? Why do we defame and disrespect our women? Why do we hate another Black man because he is from a different neighborhood? And why do we insult our Black brothers with the N word? I won't pretend to know the answer to these questions.

What I do know is that we should look to ourselves to understand why our month is not the glorified celebration it should be. Our leaders also have to look at the plight of the Black community and together we should work to remedy the social despair that stands in the way of the full success of Black Americans. More specifically, we need to provide hope and opportunity to our young men.

I know that we Black men are proud; but I don't know why I didn't write about this pride last month. Maybe it is too soon for me and other Black men in America to stand up with elation, hold our fist to the sky, and say we are proud. This type of celebration will only happen when all Americans are free and equal.

## 'What Does it Mean to be Grateful'

By Renée Soule  
Contributing Writer

One of the most commonly expressed "feelings" in San Quentin Nonviolent Communication (NVC) classes is, "Today, I feel grateful...I feel blessed." Straight-up expressions of gratitude are unusual outside prison walls, so I was curious about these consistent "I feel grateful..." statements.

What are the needs met by expressing gratitude when times might be tough?

NVC requires understanding the NEEDS that motivate our actions, no matter how crazy our actions might be. In my first months of teaching NVC, I felt suspicious of these constant expressions of gratitude. Maybe it

was a way of scooting around less comfortable and more "gritty" feelings and needs. After some reflection, I finally came to see and respect the authentic needs behind expressions of gratitude

Unlike other feelings, feeling grateful is a disciplined choice, even a declaration of freedom. "No matter what is taken from me or hardship I undergo, I choose to focus on what is GOOD and not on what drains my spirit. Each day, I feel grateful for what serves my life. Thus I survive prison life with my humanity and faith in life intact." Is there a more important need in prison?

There is another less obvious need met by expressing gratitude. Consider making a move to

improve one's life or situation. If you consistently dwell upon what is "missing" or wrong, this can lead to bitterness and despair. Gradually what is missing in one's life becomes who you are. Bitter desperation and a constant sense of lack are not inspiring or influential. We are not likely to get what we want. A commitment to gratitude inspires confidence in self and others. It is both a launching pad and beacon of hope.

Expressing gratitude in prison is a soul-survival strategy. It is a source of creative actions and positive problem solving.

*—Renée Soule is an eco-psychologist and has been teaching in San Quentin for nearly seven years.*

## Father Boyle's Homeboy Industries

Continued from Page 1

pen... This is powerful to see. It's real. It's true. You've created a community of kinship such that God will recognize."

Father Boyle's message: "How do we inch our way out toward the young people who don't feel included? When we stand with the poor, the powerless and the voiceless, we choose to be of service and to transform lives. We stand with the easily despised and the readily left out, the demonized so that the demonizing will stop the disposable of human beings - so, the day will come when we stop throwing people away."

Father Boyle spoke of the time he spent with Cesar Chavez. "I told him that the people love him. He just shrugged his shoulders and told me that the feeling was mutual." Chavez maintained that "It's not about service; it's about bridging the differences between us."

Father Boyle said one of his most exciting moments was when First Lady Laura Bush visited Los Angeles to talk to members of Homeboy Industries. He added that Vice President Al Gore's visit had a tremendous impact on Homeboy Industries also.

Father Boyle's best-selling book, *Tattoos on the Heart*, is

a colorful work of art that gets under the skin of those who read it. It shows the deep relationships he has nurtured and cultivated in his 25 years at Homeboy Industries. Through the ink on the pages, images are drawn of homeboys and home-girls finding their true identity and self worth, said Elizondo in a review of the book.

Elizondo asked Father Boyle, "If you could have a word tattooed on your heart, what would it be?" He replied, "Hope."

*—Rose Elizondo contributed to this article.*



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

Corrections Officers guarding the East Gate

## Occupy Movement Protests at S.Q.

Continued from Page 1

- Support for the Georgia prison strike and the Pelican Bay/California prisoners hunger strike.

- Support for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Lynne Stewart, Bradley Manning and Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, a Black Panther Party member incarcerated since 1969.

- End targeting African-Americans who exercise their First Amendment rights, such as Khalil in Occupy Oakland.

- End Secured Housing Units (SHU) and solitary confinement.

- Transfer tax dollars from the Prison Industrial Complex to education, housing, health care, mental health care and other human services.

"It's been an amazing day. We've had hundreds of people out here reading messages from prisoners, and speaking out about issues that are important to us all," said Crystal Bybee of Occupy4Prisoners.

Author, film producer and 2006 California gubernatorial candidate Barbara Beclen helped facilitate the event. "We should really be proud of ourselves today, because today, we are history-makers," she said. "We have merged the prison rights movement with the Occupy movement."

Shane Bauer, one of the hikers accused of being a spy and imprisoned in Iran in 2009, addressed the protesters. "The issue of prison conditions is important to all of us," he said.

Ron Greene, a former clinical psychologist who worked at San Quentin and Soledad prisons, said, "I support the general principles of Occupy and I care about the conditions at San Quentin. That's not to say I want to release all the prisoners, but there are many who could do very well on the street."

Tahtauerriak Sessoms is an organizer with All of Us or

None of Us, a national organization working for the rights of prisoners and felons, which teaches youth about their rights when approached by the police or while in prison. She spoke about her experience in solitary confinement: "I came out, I felt like an animal. I was told I was nothing and I believed it."

Veronica Hernandez is currently detained in juvenile hall, waiting to be tried as an adult. She was 16 at the time of her arrest. Her statement was read at the rally: "There are no law libraries or legal services at juvenile hall, so a juvenile, for better or for worse, is entirely dependent on his or her court-appointed attorney, and must trust that he or she will lead them in the right direction. Unfortunately, for me, that direction was to adult court. I now face a life sentence should I be convicted."

*"America has a deep-seeded philosophy in which it only allows for the execution of its poorest people."*

its poorest people. These seeds have taken root and have grown in such a way that no person who this system sees as a 'have-not' is safe from the death machine - whether they are within San Quentin or on a BART platform."

Demonstrators held a moment of silence for Christian Alexander Gomez, 27, who died on Feb. 2 while on a hunger strike in Corcoran State Prison.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesperson Terry Thornton commented: "Inmates held in segregated housing units are not isolated. Some inmates are single-celled, but they converse with other inmates. They can get visits and they interact with staff."

[www.occupy4prisoners.org](http://www.occupy4prisoners.org)  
[occupy4prisoners@gmail.com](mailto:occupy4prisoners@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: *occupy4prisoners*  
 Twitter: *@occupy4prisoner*

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Appliance Tech Tips

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

You've seen the commercials with the clothing storage bags you vacuum the air out of to get more stuff in your closet? Digital TV is like that. The signal is compressed and harder to deal with. The computer processor in the tuner gets hot unfolding all this stuff, so don't block your lower and upper vents.

When you shut your TV off, did you know a third of it is still oscillating at ten thousand times a second? Waiting night and day for your command to wake up the other sections? This causes three problems. 1. It wears out certain (cheap) components prematurely. Many flat screens just quit working. The filter capacitors swollen from overheating and fatigue. 2. The TV power supply noise while off blocks AM and FM radio reception. 3.

More of a concern outside, the TV in standby mode runs the electric meter up. When you're done watching at night, turn it off and unplug it to help it last longer, and enjoy the late night talk shows on the radio.

The RCA tube sets were built without installing the left audio channel parts – a cost saving measure. I noticed concerts with missing left stage instruments, or shows like Family Guy where the closed captioning showed dialog in a room to the left, but nothing was heard in the headphones.

Thank you very much. The KTV's have stereo, but the HP plug is very weakly attached. Don't bump the headphone plug or use adaptors that act like a crowbar on the delicate jack inside.

The flat screen TV's use a tiny fluorescent lamp to light the screen. These have limited lifetimes. It costs about \$75 to replace the bulb. The meter's running...

Some KTV tuner boards can come loose in the socket if your TV is transported upside down and the TV won't turn on. For RCA / KTV tube sets, don't clean your screen while wearing ear buds! You'll get a 17,000 volt static spark in your ears. Maybe you can have your celly do it while you watch.

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

With the following clues, identify the number:

I am a two-digit number  
I am not a prime number  
My two digits are not the same  
I am not a multiple of 2, 3, or 5



Last month's Answer: The first sequence is a series of square numbers. So 8 should be replaced by 9. The second sequence adds one sixth each time, so 4/5 should be replaced by 5/6. The third sequence is a sequence of prime numbers, so 10 should be replaced by 11.

Congratulations to: Ron Tran, Chris Schuhmacher and Edwin Carlevato for correctly answering last month's puzzle.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many Native tribes consider the Spring Equinox as their New Year celebration.

Spring Equinox begins on March 21 with the waking of the bears, followed by the powwow, the healing of the tribes, and the planting seasons.

These observances usually consist of four days of sweat lodge ceremonies, dances, drum ceremonies and traditional food of salmon, deer and buffalo meats, served with fry bread, beans and rice.

Those who observe these rituals participate in an ancient indigenous ceremony.

## Snippets

Coca-Cola on May 15, 1950 became the first product ever to grace the cover of Time magazine.

Lasting between 1846 and 1850, Ireland's population declined hit 2 million. Because of the diseases associated with the potato famine, or potato crop failure, one million people died of starvation and one million emigrated to North America or parts of Britain.

Ostrich leather has a unique feather quill pattern that provides strength and durability seven times stronger than cowhide.

Venice's sewer system, which consists of all household waste that is deposited, flows into canals and flushes out into the ocean twice a day with the tides.

Each day the heart can beat 100,000 times, or 35 million times in a year. For an average lifespan the heart will beat more than 2.5 billion times.

Requiring 25 percent of all oxygen used by the body, the brain actually only makes up 2 percent of it.

## ARTS IN CORRECTIONS EXHIBITION

Artwork from San Quentin Prison Arts Project and Arts-in-Corrections will be shown in San Francisco at Bell Memorial Union, 2nd Floor Lounge Gallery on Feb. 28 to Apr. 20.

There will be a reception on March 27 at Ayers Hall, Room 201 from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a panel of artists who teach in prison.

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

2	7	3	9	1	6	4	5	8
6	5	4	2	7	8	9	1	3
1	8	9	5	3	4	2	7	6
8	3	2	4	9	1	5	6	7
4	6	5	3	8	7	1	2	9
9	1	7	6	5	2	8	3	4
7	2	8	1	4	3	6	9	5
3	9	1	8	6	5	7	4	2
5	4	6	7	2	9	3	8	1



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda

**HOLD TIGHT** (By Harlan Coben) A suicide and two murders connected by social media terrify a New Jersey bedroom community.



**THE CANON** (By Natalie Angier) Author breaks down a variety of scientific fields down into basic, relevant, and entertaining chapters.



**GONE WITH THE WITCH** (By Annette Blair) Rebel witch kidnaps a cranky biker to help find a lost baby.



**THE ALCHEMIST** (By Paolo Coelho) Spanish shepherd boy's adventures in the Sahara searching for lost treasure.

### RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one: 

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of James Norton

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

5	2		9			6	7	
	4			8		2		
3	8				7	4	1	
7						2		
3	5	4				1	7	8
		2					6	
6	3			8	5			
7			4		6	8		
8	1		3			4	2	

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

"Asked on the Line" conducted random informal interviews with 18 mainliners and asked how they felt about the protesters coming to San Quentin and about the administration's decision to cancel the mainline



Stephen Pascasio

"I would have been more effective if they had been inside San Quentin as well as outside. It would have shined a bigger light on the entire Occupy San Quentin movement. I think it's a good thing for them to reach out and speak for those who can't speak for themselves right now."

programming. All but one was happy the protesters came, and a couple of men were bothered by the warden's "modified program." The one person who didn't like the protest asked to remain anonymous.

"I thought it was an excellent idea," said Mike. "I wish they would have talked about how the State of California has been taken hostage by the special in-



"While I deeply appreciate the message that the system is being watched, I

feel the end result is like tossing a life-ring towards the Titanic."

terest groups like the Victims Groups." Mike didn't think the safety and security of San Quentin was ever at risk, "so we should have been left on normal program."

Tim said, "It's about time!" He added, "The administration locking us in didn't bother me at all. It was for my benefit and I'm willing to pay that price."



"I felt the empathy from the three guest speakers - the American

prisoners held in Iran, Josh Fattal, Sarah Shroud, and Shane Bauer. I felt they were on point."

Sane said he liked that the Occupy Movement came and that prisoners were locked in for the

day was OK. "It was for a good cause," he said.

Gary thought it was great that there were people who were willing to stand together for prisoners, but didn't like being locked in on a holiday.

Alamin said, "The protesters are a voice for the prisoners, but



"I came from Soledad and I was placed in West Block when I

got here and it's a building that's not ready for inmates to live in. Also, prisons are still overcrowded, we need a lot of stuff for the prisons-better programs would be a good start."

I think it was unnecessary for us to be locked in."

Marcus was one of the critical workers that had to report for duty. "I saw all the snipers and could see the Coast Guard out in the water. I felt good that people stood up for our rights."

Ed thought the protest had a positive message. "They brought these issues out and created public awareness. I wasn't happy about the lockdown. The prison officials overreacted."

## News Briefs

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** — Law enforcement officials in are seeing far more prisoners than projected, since taking on the responsibility for lower level offenders. Since realignment took effect Oct. 1, the jail has taken in 420 additional offenders -- 500 percent above state officials' early projections, according to Undersheriff Mike Casten.

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH** — reports the number of prisoners in the United

States over age 65 increased by 63 percent from 2007 to 2010, while the total number of prisoners increased by less than one percent.

**NORTH CAROLINA** — Marcus Reymond Robinson has made the first challenge to a death sentence under North Carolina's Racial Justice Act. The act allows Death Row prisoners to cite statistical patterns to argue their jury selections or sentences were racially biased.

**TEXAS** — On Feb. 29, George Rivas became the state's 479th person executed. Rivas was convicted of killing police officer Aubrey Hawkins following a 2000 prison break.

**SACAMENTO** — The League of Women's Voter has challenged Secretary of State Debra Bowen's memorandum stating that the nearly 85,000 offenders serving time in county jails because of realignment are not eligible to vote in the June primary.

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**SEPT. 19, 1980** — Coyote Park, the mini-park of trees and foliage located on the lower yard, has been laid bare by order of Warden George Sumner due to last week's stabbing incident. There have been three stabbings in the past two years in this area.

**NOV. 14, 1980** — James Dance, 32, from Santa Clara County, was stabbed and killed Saturday morning on the lower yard. It was believed that the killing was over a debt, says prison information officer Mike Madding. A 12-inch steel prison-made knife believed used in the incident has been found. A suspect has been arrested. It is the first

killing in San Quentin since Feb. 22, 1979.

**NOV. 14, 1980** — A special preholiday show featuring James Brown and his Revue will take place Wednesday in the north dining hall. Also featured will be a country/rock group, Tour De Force.

**NOV. 14, 1980** — A 25-year-old San Quentin inmate who walked out of the prison last year dressed as a woman was convicted of escape. Guthrie L. Danowski was captured in Grapevine, Tex. three days after the escape. He told the jury it was not an escape but "a nonviolent walkaway."

**NOV. 21, 1980** — A convict was found dead in his cell in a

maximum security cellblock with the cord to his radio wrapped around his neck. The death of Steven Copenhagen, 24, is being investigated to determine if it might be accidental or a suicide.

**NOV. 21, 1980** — A warning shot was fired on the lower yard when a gunner thought a yard officer was being surrounded by a group of convicts. The yard officer had just broken up what he thought was an illegal card game.

**NOV. 21, 1980** — Singer James Brown and his entourage of entertainers played a special holiday show to a packed crowd in the north dining hall.

## Corrections

Last month the three strikes article said that AB 327 contained exceptions to what would constitute a third strike. There are no exceptions as to what the bill defines as a serious or violent third strike.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.

- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.

- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.

- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

## San Quentin News

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### Administrative Review

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Adviser.....	Steve McNamara
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## BEHIND THE SCENES

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POPULATION 3,763



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Cell corridor at Pelican Bay State Prison

## California's Prisoner Segregation Scrutinized

By John Eagan  
San Quentin News Adviser

Big changes are on the horizon for California's solitary confinement policies.

In the wake of hunger strikes, public protests and a complaint to the United Nations, California prison officials are gearing up for policy changes expected to

dramatically reduce the number of prisoners in solitary lockups.

State prisons chief Matthew Cate announced April 24 that "the department is already projecting a decreased need for segregated housing for gang members and has cancelled the

*See Security Housing on Page 4*

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

The state Legislature is considering filling funding gaps in county services for former state prisoners with mental illnesses by redirecting millions of dollars raised by taxing prisoners and their families.

The pending legislation, SB 542, would require an unspecified percentage of the Inmate Welfare Fund to be transferred to county probation departments and utilized for the coordination of mental health services after an inmate's release from state custody.

### FUNDS

The funds, now totaling \$68 million, are deposited in a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) bank account and according to law must be allo-



ditional recipients of the benefits.

State Sen. Curren D. Price Jr., D-Los Angeles, who sponsored the legislation, visited San Quentin on April 11 to meet with prison mental health care officials and with a group of students from the Prison University Project, who voiced opinions on how best to use the funds.

Price acknowledged to the group that his office and other interests, which he declined to name, have inquired about the funds. He and State Science and Technology Fellow Dr. Le Ondra Clark listened attentively as seven prisoners voiced their concerns. There were many suggestions, including securing assistance for prisoners with mental

*See New Legislation on Page 4*

## Recent State Study Criticizes Offender Classification Practice



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

San Quentin's old receiving and release building where initial inmate screening took place

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

The current practice by California prison officials of categorizing and housing some prisoners in higher level institutions than necessary has been blasted by a new report funded by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The report found that current administrative practice—called classification—creates a criminogenic effect that make offenders more dangerous than they were before entering one of the state's 33 prisons. In addition, the report points out that CDCR's classification methodology

allows favorable factors that would dissuade placement in higher-level institutions to be ignored—resulting in many well-behaved prisoners being misclassified. Nearly 68 percent of California's prisoners are housed in higher security facilities. Once these misclassified offenders are released from prison, their likelihood for return is greatly increased, according to the report.

### SECURITY LEVELS

California prisons have four security levels and prisoners are assigned to a specific institution based upon their classification score. Prisoners assigned to institutions that are Level I or Level II gener-

ally live in dormitories and need little supervision, while prisoners assigned to Level III or Level IV live in cells and require constant supervision. Notably, celled housing is far more costly to construct and operate than dormitories.

### CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

During the classification process, prisoners are given a preliminary score based on their social history and criminal record. Annual re-classification adjusts that score relative to their in-prison behavior, with points added for misconduct or subtracted for good behavior. However, instead of relying on demonstrated behavior, prisoners are often over-classified by the application of Close Custody designations and Mandatory Minimums, two components that override preliminary scores to determine prisoner placement.

### CLOSE CUSTODY

Close Custody is a designation reserved for prisoners considered an escape risk and make up nearly 40 percent of the state's 144,000 prisoners.

*See Recent Classification on Page 4*

To read what prisoners have to say to their mothers, see Pages 6 and 7 for their Mother's Day quotes.

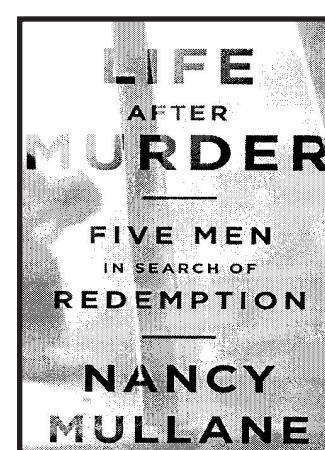
## Book Views Plight Of Former Lifers

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Why would five convicted murderers offer a news reporter unfettered access into their life after spending decades behind bars?

Radio reporter Nancy Mullane uses her journalistic skill as a guiding force to give a unique perspective on how California's criminal justice system works.

"Life after Murder: Five Men in Search of Redemption" is an eye opening and honest explanation of how a paroled murderer can live in the state of happiness and bliss while suffering from fear and anxiety.



She sifts through the emotional journey that these men and their families endure, writing; "No one really goes to prison alone. An invisible rope stretches from the heart and mind of a prisoner out through the bars of his cell, up into the sky, over the hills and water, dropping back down to earth far away, inside the lives of the people left behind. As the years pass – five, 10, 20, 30 – the fibers of that rope become frayed, and sometimes they snap."

Mullane goes into extensive detail uncloaking the events that

*See Mullane's Book on Page 4*

# Over 17 Years Since Singer's Tragic Death

By Adam Barboza  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last month marked the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic death of singer and songwriter Selena Quintanella, known as "La Reina de la musica Tejana" – The Queen of Tejano music.

Selena was born and raised in Texas. She started singing at age three and had her own band by the time she was nine, called Selena y Los Dinos. Selena signed her first recording contract, with EMI/Capitol, in 1989, and her popularity quickly grew. She was named "Top Latin Artist of the 90's" and "Best selling Latin artist of the decade" by *Billboard* magazine.

In addition to her musical success, she was also an actress, dancer, model and designer. She enjoyed going to schools to encourage education, and was involved with civic organizations such as D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

Selena's rise to the top was cut short at the age of 23. On March 31, 1995, she was murdered at a Days Inn hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas by Yolanda Saldívar, who had been president of the Selena Fan Club. The Quintanella family had recently fired Saldívar when they discovered she was embezzling money from the club.

Saldívar received a life sentence; she will be eligible for parole in 2025. She is in protec-



Official Photo

Singer Selena Quintanella

tive custody due to death threats from other prisoners.

On April 12, 1995, then governor George W. Bush declared Selena's birthday of April 16 as "Selena Day".

## SF Seeks to Build New County Jail

By N.T. "Noble" Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco officials have taken the first steps to modernize its jail system. The plan was prompted by the aging condition of the Bryant Street jail. Officials believe that it is unstable and could not survive an earthquake.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) wants to purchase

the entire block where the Hall of Justice is located at an estimated cost of between \$7.7 and \$9.4 million. The total cost of planning and building the new jail, including a new Superior Court building, is estimated at \$425 million.

The County Jail system is designed to house 2,360 detainees. San Bruno houses about 1,100 prisoners and Seventh Street holds 464. The jail at the Hall of

Justice on Bryant Street accommodates about 900 detainees.

If the land were purchased by 2015, officials would begin construction in 2018 and will open the jail for intake by 2019.

City officials have not contacted the owners of the land about offers.

The San Francisco Examiner contacted one of the owners, who commented, "Why build a jail on such precious land?"

PRISONER GROUP RALLIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Last month, two world-renowned environmentalists paid visits to the Green Life program at San Quentin. One might think the environment would be the last thing that a person doing time would have on his mind, but the Green Life teaches prisoners about issues like sustainable growth, environmental justice, and waste management.

Manuel Maqueda and Julia Butterfly Hill are both interested in how prisoners are dedicating themselves to caring for the planet.

Maqueda originally studied law and economics in Spain. But when he moved to the United States, the worldwide misuse of plastics caught his attention and he redirected his career. Maqueda got involved in a documentary studying the environmental havoc wreaked by plastics on islands in the Pacific.

"It is not a good idea to make a product that is only needed for a short period of time with a material that will last forever," he said.

Maqueda said his visit to San Quentin was an opportunity to converse with like-minded environmentalists. He also talked about artist Chris Jordan, who created a photograph depicting 2.3 million prisoner jumpsuits – one for every incarcerated American – as a visual representation of mass incarceration in the United States.

Conservationist Julia Butterfly Hill's visit was her second to San Quentin. "What touched me about the men I met inside of San Quentin is the courage I experience in this space," she said. "It takes courage to care about this world, the way that you do, under the circumstances you are in. That really touched me."

Butterfly Hill sat in a circle of convicted felons as she spoke about her transformation into an activist fighting against the deforestation of America's rainforests that began with occupying a 1000-year old redwood — an experience that ended up lasting 738 days. She attributes the success of her occupation to her

***"It is not a good idea to make a product that is only needed for a short period of time with a material that will last forever"***

stubbornness, which grew out of overcoming a rough childhood.

"The greatest obstacle to success is in the mind," she said. Butterfly Hill compared her transformation into the person she is today to that of a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly. The body and mind must literally undergo *real* change, she said. "That's what happened to me."

## Native American Sues for Ceremonial Tobacco Right

A San Quentin prisoner is suing the California prison system for denying Native Americans the right to use tobacco during religious ceremonies.

Daniel Trevino, a member of the Comanche Nation, filed the suit in the Northern District Federal Court in San Francisco. The defendant is the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The prison rules manual provides an exemption for the use of tobacco products for inmate religious ceremonies. However, many institutions, including San Quentin, routinely issue rules violations for possession of tobacco, even to be used for religious purposes. Trevino stated that recently arrived Native American prisoners report that tobacco is used in other

institutions without men being issued rules violation reports.

In South Dakota two inmates, Blaine Brings Plenty and Clayton Creek, have also sued the warden of the corrections department because of the tobacco ban in that state.

Richard Moves Camp, a traditional Lakota healer said during a federal trial "denying the use of tobacco by Native Americans would be equal to taking bibles away from Christians."

The South Dakota lawsuit was filed in 2009 the California lawsuit was filed in 2011.

South Dakota, as well as California, has an exemption in their respective prison rule books providing for the use of tobacco during religious ceremonies.

## Environmentalists Visit 'Green Life'

PRISONER GROUP RALLIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Last month, two world-renowned environmentalists paid visits to the Green Life program at San Quentin. One might think



the environment would be the last thing that a person doing time would have on his mind, but the Green Life teaches prisoners about issues like sustainable growth, environmental justice, and waste management.

Manuel Maqueda and Julia Butterfly Hill are both interested in how prisoners are dedicating themselves to caring for the planet.

Maqueda originally studied law and economics in Spain. But when he moved to the United States, the worldwide misuse of plastics caught his attention and he redirected his career. Maqueda got involved in a documentary studying the environmental havoc wreaked by plastics on islands in the Pacific.

"It is not a good idea to make a product that is only needed for a short period of time with a material that will last forever," he said.

Maqueda said his visit to San Quentin was an opportunity to converse with like-minded environmentalists. He also talked about artist Chris Jordan, who created a photograph depicting 2.3 million prisoner jumpsuits – one for every incarcerated American – as a visual representation of mass incarceration in the United States.

## Native American Sues for Ceremonial Tobacco Right

A San Quentin prisoner is suing the California prison system for denying Native Americans the right to use tobacco during religious ceremonies.

Daniel Trevino, a member of the Comanche Nation, filed the suit in the Northern District Federal Court in San Francisco. The defendant is the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The prison rules manual provides an exemption for the use of tobacco products for inmate religious ceremonies. However, many institutions, including San Quentin, routinely issue rules violations for possession of tobacco, even to be used for religious purposes. Trevino stated that recently arrived Native American prisoners report that tobacco is used in other

institutions without men being issued rules violation reports.

In South Dakota two inmates, Blaine Brings Plenty and Clayton Creek, have also sued the warden of the corrections department because of the tobacco ban in that state.

Richard Moves Camp, a traditional Lakota healer said during a federal trial "denying the use of tobacco by Native Americans would be equal to taking bibles away from Christians."

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## Medical Care



### What Is Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis is a disease of the lungs that is commonly called TB. TB is caused by a germ that floats in the air. You can be exposed to TB if a person with infectious TB disease talks, coughs, shouts or sneezes. This sprays TB germs into the air around you. Anyone nearby can breathe the TB germs into their lungs. Some of these people could become infected with TB.

### Why Is It Important To Have A TB Skin Test?

You can be infected with TB and not know it. TB germs can live in your body without making you sick right away. The TB Skin Test can tell you early that you need treatment.

Residents of prisons are at risk for developing TB. Since TB is spread through the air, all people who share the same air space can get TB. Inmates should be tested regularly to make sure TB does not spread.

The TB Skin Test can catch TB early. The earlier you find TB infection, the easier it can be to treat.

### ¿ Que es la tuberculosis?

La tuberculosis, o "TB" (ti bi) como se le llama comúnmente en Ingles, es una enfermedad de los pulmones, que es causada por un germen que se encuentra en el aire. Los germenes de la tuberculosis pasan al aire cuando alguien que esta infectado con la enfermedad estornuda, tose o habla, por esta razón, usted puede estar expuesto a la tuberculosis con simplemente respirar el aire contagiado.

### ¿ Porque es importante tener un analisis de la piel para determinar si se tiene o no tuberculosis?

**Usted puede estar infectado y no saberlo.** Al principio de la enfermedad es posible tener los germenes tuberculosos en el cuerpo sin sentirse enfermo. Este examen puede demostrarle a tiempo si es que se necesita tratamiento medico.

**Las personas en las prisiones estan en riesgo de contraer la tuberculosis.** Puesto que la tuberculosis se expande en el aire libre, por lo tanto al respirar el aire contagiado, cualquier persona puede contagiarse con esta enfermedad. Todos los reclusos tienen que ser examinados regularmente para asegurarse que la tuberculosis no se dicemine por toda la dependencia penitenciaria.

**El análisis de la piel ayuda a comprobar si existen germenes tuberculosos en el cuerpo.** Con este examen la tuberculosis se puede detectar desde su comienzo y recuerde que entre más temprano se detecte la enfermedad, más fácil será su tratamiento.

# States Rethink Prison Solitary Confinement

## THERE ARE GROWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LONG TERM AFFECTS OF ISOLATION

By San Quentin News Staff

In 1831, French historian Alexis de Tocqueville visited the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, where prison officials were pioneering a novel rehabilitation,



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Exercise yard for segregated inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison

based on Quaker principles of reflection and penitence. They called it solitary con-

finement, and it's where we get the name penitentiary.

Now, 180 years later, "at least 25,000 prisoners" — and possibly many more, various sources say — are in solitary confinement in the United States, with little consistency in the amount of time they will spend there. The United Nations reported that more prisoners are held in solitary confinement in the United States than any other democratic nation, according a recent article in the New York Times.

"By 2005, 44 states had supermax prisons or their equivalents. In most, prisoners get out of their cells for only a few hours a week. They are fed through slots in their cell doors and are denied access to work programs or other rehabilitation efforts. If visitors are allowed, the interactions are conducted with no physical contact," the Times concluded.

Some prisoners seem to adjust to isolation, according to a report by Craig W. Haney,

a psychology professor the University of California.

But Haney added that "the rigid control, absence of normal human interaction and lack of stimulation imposed by prolonged isolation can cause a wide range of psychological symptoms, including insomnia, withdrawal, rage and aggression, depression, hallucinations and thoughts of suicide... Worse still is the fact that for many of these men, the real damage only becomes apparent when they get out of this environment."

A New York Times story on Pelican Bay, a supermax prison in California, reported most prisoners claim they suffer from nervousness, anxiety, lethargy or other psychological complaints. Seventy percent said they felt themselves to be at risk of "impending nervous breakdown."

Because of what has been learned about the adverse psychological affects of isolation, humanitarian groups have argued that, its use should have been ended long ago. However, because of



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Housing unit at Pelican State Prison

their extensive staffing requirements, the economic factor has brought attention to the use of these facilities.

California, Mississippi, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Ohio and Washington State

are reevaluating the use of long-term isolation and re-evaluating how many prisoners really require it, how long they should be kept there, and how best to move them out.

# Model Prisoner Vang Paroles After 17 Years

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

After half his life in prison, Touly Vang is scheduled to parole from San Quentin. He is determined to be a positive role model and a voice that speaks out against gang violence in the Hmong community.

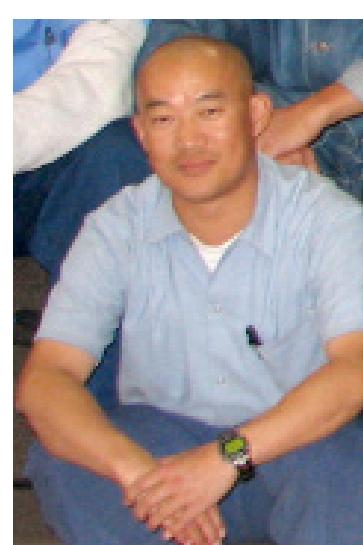
"When I was found suitable for parole I was basically in disbelief," Vang said. "I had to hear it a couple of times to make sure it was what I heard." When it registered, Vang said, he thought about his family and friends who helped him prepare for his parole board hearing.

"I thought of the family of the victim, Khao Heu. I thought about his mother and sister," said Vang. "I thought was I worthy, if 18 years was enough after I took a human life." When asked

if that answer had been given, Vang said yes it had. Now his goal is to give a lot more back to the Hmong community.

"I was self-destructive and angry. I tried to find my way and couldn't," said Vang. "Prison taught me to be independent but also to be humble and seek others' advice."

Vang credits San Quentin's programs, Addiction Rehabilitation Center (ARC), Non-violent Communication (NVC), Guiding Rage into Power (GRIP), Impact, Kairos, and Prison University Project (PUP), for instilling the direction he now has. "Impact's violence prevention module is what clicked for me today. When I'm angry I know violence isn't going to straighten out the situation," Vang said. "I know not to meet the same energy with anger."



"Jacques is an inspiration. His help is genuine," said Vang. "With PUP I stepped out of my comfort zone going to college. They challenged me and taught me self worth plus the value of education."

Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, his family fled to the Philippines after a civil war broke out there. Later they would move again. "We came to America," said Vang. Suddenly he found himself lured into a new battle zone, one of gangs and violence.

"What drew me to gangs was the camaraderie," Vang said. "It was hard being first generation Hmong. I could hardly speak English. The gangs offered me a sense of belonging. It was like family."

Yet when his parents and siblings found out they did not approve. "It was a culture clash

between the old and new," said Vang. "They weren't happy with me. They were very disappointed."

Today his family is very proud of him, Vang said, especially his plans to speak out against gangs in the Hmong community. His message to Governor Brown regarding juvenile justice is clear. "San Quentin's education and self-esteem programs should be the model."

"Locking up kids and throwing away the key is not the answer," Vang said. "There's a disconnection. People are not connecting to their kid's cry for help."

"At 17, I came to prison. Now I'm 34, I have 11 sisters and three brothers," said Vang. "I have a long way to go still, but for now I just want to be with my family and have some sticky rice and fish."

# ACLU Releases Report on State's Prison Realignment Plan

Last month, the ACLU of California released a report with specific suggestions geared toward state lawmakers telling them what they should do in order to comply with the terms of a Supreme Court prison population reduction order without overcrowding county jails with low-level offenders.

The state's prison population reduction plan is called realignment. It is premised on the counties' willingness to implement evidence-based practices that will reduce re-

cidivism, limit incarceration costs and investing criminal justice resources more efficiently. However, the report finds that since the new legislation does not establish systematic data collection or evaluation, the state has missed the opportunity to successfully measure the effectiveness of its realignment plan.

Of the 53 counties that the report examined, it found that too few explicitly allocated funds to make even the most "well-intentioned plans to in-

stitute evidence-based alternatives" to incarceration.

"Among the counties that allocated funds specifically for evidence-based programming, such as job counseling, family reunification, behavioral therapy, and mental health and substance abuse treatment, the allocations were all too often insufficient to carry out the stated plans or fail to provide access to the estimated number of individuals in need," according to the report.

The following recommendations were made:

- Mandate standardized data collection and analysis
- Revise the realignment allocation formula
- Enact statewide sentencing reforms
- Amend statewide pretrial detention laws
- Require counties to submit new or revised realignment plans each year
- Halt or significantly reduce jail expansion and construction plans
- Encourage local courts to utilize realignment's new sentencing options

—Juan Haines

# Security Housing Units

**Continued from Page 1**

proposed construction of 50 segregated exercise yards for gang members at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi."

Cate said that cancellation saves about \$2.9 million.

He said changes "are expected to begin in fiscal year 2012-13." They include:

- Offer graduated housing and privileges as incentives for positive behavior, and impose consequences for gang-related behaviors;

- Offer a step-down program for inmates to work their way from a restricted program back to a general population setting;

- Provide support and education for inmates seeking to disengage from gangs;

- Employ a weighted point system to enhance the integrity of the gang validation process;

- Use segregated housing only for those gang associates and suspects who engage in additional serious disciplinary behavior; and

- Offer programs designed to promote social values and behaviors in preparation for an inmate's return to the community.

"The department manages arguably the most violent and sophisticated criminal gangs in the nation," Cate said. "The department's prior

prison gang strategy was developed more than 25 years ago and relied primarily on suppression. Tested national models available today utilize a combination of prevention, interdiction, and rehabilitation measures."

On March 20 the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law

petitioned the United Nations to investigate and urge an end to solitary confinement. The petition came in the wake of 6,000 persons in 13 California prisoners conducting hunger strikes last summer, claiming the practice are "inhumane and torturous," The Associated Press reported.

The petitioners say California's solitary confinement policies violate "international rules governing the treatment of prisoners."

On Feb. 20 the Occupy movement demonstrated outside San Quentin objecting to solitary confinement, among other things.

"Certainly there are a small number of people who for a variety of reasons have to be maintained in a way that they don't have access to other inmates," Chase Rovelstad, a former head of corrections in Colorado and Washington state, told the New York Times. "But those in most systems are pretty small numbers of people."

Mississippi corrections commissioner Christopher B. Epps told the New York Times he used to believe difficult inmates should be locked down as tightly as possible, for as long as possible.

But Epps said while he was fighting a lawsuit over prison conditions he changed his views and ordered changes. "If you treat people like animals, that's exactly the way they'll behave," he said.



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Cell in Pelican Bay State Prison

## Mullane's Book On Ex-Lifers

**Continued from Page 1**

catapulted these men into murder, how imprisonment drove them to transform their thinking, what it feels like – that first day out, the challenges that parole imposes on an ex-offender, and what it means for a man to become self-sufficient.

Mullane took five years to study and decode the mysteries behind prison culture – simultaneously navigating through the intricacies of state government in order to tell a story about the mechanical life that these men left in their wake. "...if anyone knows how to pace himself, how to take one step at a time and be patient, it is a man who

has served an indeterminate sentence," Mullane explains.

She becomes more than just a storyteller as she tags along with Don Cronk, Phillip Sieler, Eric Rameriz, Jesse Reed, and Richard Real to show that their deeds in service to the community and survival are rooted in redemption. The book is scheduled to be released this June.

## Recent Classification Study

**Continued from Page 1**

However, the report found no evidence to support the continued use of the Close Custody designation as 27 of California's 33 prisons have electric fences and no prisoner has ever escaped from an institution with a lethal electrified fence.

### MANDATORY MINIMUMS

Mandatory Minimums further restrict the placement of identified prisoners based solely on their commitment offense. Although commonly perceived as more dangerous, prisoners "convicted of vio-

lent crimes tend to be better behaved in prison" than others. The report found Mandatory Minimums over-classifies many well-behaved prisoners, placing them in higher security levels than necessary. Notably, prisoners serving life without parole were found to be 21 percent less likely to commit future acts of violence when compared to prisoners serving shorter sentences.

The report noted recent studies of the federal prison system found that moving a prisoner up just one level from minimum security "doubles the prisoner's chances of being rearrested within three years." In California, another study

found that Level III prisoners housed in Level I settings are 31 percent less likely to return to prison.

The report concluded a prisoner's in-prison behavior is the best predictor of future conduct and recommended prison administrators rely on that factor instead of Close Custody designations and Mandatory Minimums to determine their prison placement—noting that prisoners with classification scores at or near the threshold of each security level could safely be moved down one level. The report also found many older prisoners may be safely moved to lower security level prisons.



Photo by Sgt. Baxter

Sen. Price, Dr. Jody Lewen, and Dr. Le Ondra Clark pose with prisoners after a meeting in the education department

## New Legislation Eyes Inmate Welfare Fund

**Continued from Page 1**

health issues, reentry into society, and funding rehabilitation programs inside.

Price told them he wanted "to make sure that inmates are getting the services they deserve."

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The group agreed there is need to provide services for former state prisoners. But they told Price that the IWF should not be used to pay for

***These funds should not be used for programs the state should be providing from the general fund. These funds should be used for things like arts in prison, college textbooks, theater groups and gardening programs.***

services that are the responsibility of the state or county.

One prisoner suggested increasing the \$200 given to prisoners when they parole. "Two-hundred dollars is not enough money to parole with; it isn't even enough to rent a room nowadays," he told the senator.

### USED FOR PRISONERS

Currently, the IWF is used pay for institutional canteens and staffing and maintenance of hobby craft programs. However, it has been years since inmate committees have had access or been able to have input into the use of the IWF, according to prisoners.

The IWF is collected from prisoners and their families who are taxed 10 percent on all goods prisoners are allowed to purchase while serving sentences in state institutions. This tax also collected from the sale of arts and crafts prisoners produce.

The bill was referred to committee. It would allow the

IWF to go toward the cost of mental health services for former prisoners, many of whom are under county supervision due to the prison realignment plan implemented by SB109. The services would include providing mental health appointments, transportation, and medications for former state prisoners.

Price gave no indication of what percentage of the IWF the legislation seeks. Some prisoners are concerned that they will be left out of the process and that state officials will raid the funds.

"We want to make sure that the money is being used for what it was intended for," Price assured prisoners.

Prison University Project Executive Director Jody Lewen, who invited the senator to San Quentin, said, "Just because there are funds and people have a need for them does not mean that they have a right to them. That is the logic of theft."

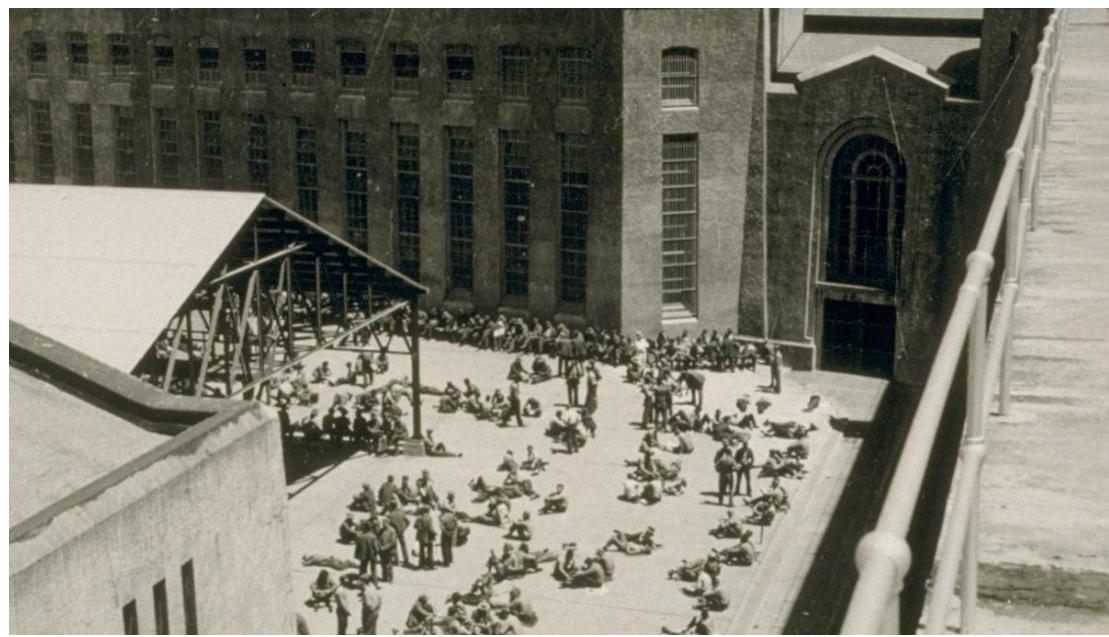
### STAKE HOLDERS

After meeting with prisoners, Price attended an April 17 stakeholders' meeting in the state capital where he recounted his visit to San Quentin, according to those present.

Ninety-one percent of the meeting attendees said in a survey they believed that the funds should not be sent to county probation departments to cover the cost of inmates with mental illness who are in county custody.

One stakeholder wrote: "These funds should not be used for programs the state should be providing with general funds. These funds should be used for things like arts in prison, college textbooks, theater groups, (and) gardening programs."

In an interview, another person close to the issue commented that the bill is well intended in helping former inmates, but also that the legislation is looking in the wrong place for funding.



Archive Photo

The upper yard with a view of East Block's entrance (date unknown)

## Looking Back into S.Q.'s Legacy

### *The Rich History of California's Oldest Prison*

*This is the second in a series of articles on San Quentin history.*

**By Keshun Tate  
Journalism Guild Writer**

After California became a state, executions were carried out in individual counties, usually by hanging.

On February 14, 1872, Capital Punishment was entered into the California Penal Code.

San Quentin was chosen to be the exclusive site for execution in 1893. The first execution within the walls of San Quentin was on March 3, 1893. Hanging from the end of the rope was 60-year-old California native Jose Gabriel.

#### SWIFT PUNISHMENT

There's no doubt San Quentin has a rich history. Most prisoners who are locked within the walls of San Quentin have no idea what has gone on here before they were born. San Quentin is not as infamous as it was in the 1800s, yet it is still a prison that is designated for executions. Sitting on Death Row are some of the state's most dangerous criminals.

Punishment in the early years was swift. It only took three months and four days after Jose received the sentence for murder before it was carried out. The first triple execution was conducted on Oct. 3, 1893.

The chief physician would step up on a foot stool and put a stethoscope over the condemned person's heart to let the hangmen know when the heart stopped beating. The person would not be cut down until the doctor pronounced the condemned dead. Chief Physician Dr. Leo Stanly wrote that witnessing a hanging was a hellish experience.

If the body was not claimed within 24 hours, a medical school claimed it for student study.

The first woman to hang in San Quentin was on Nov. 21, 1941. There was no more hanging in San Quentin after 1942.

The gas chamber, equipped with two chairs, was activated in 1938. A prisoner who helped build the gas chamber ended up years later being executed in it.

All those who were on the list for execution went to the gas chamber. Four women have been executed in San Quentin. The last woman to die in the gas chamber was on Aug. 8, 1962. During Warden Clinton Duffy's term 1940-52, he witnessed executions by rope and by gas.

#### LETHAL INJECTION

In recent years, executions were conducted with lethal injections. Court challenges have repeatedly delayed California executions, but they continue in a few other states.

Of the 409 people executed in San Quentin, over half were white. Not everyone executed in San Quentin committed a murder.

In this era the average prison sentence was two years; not many had over five years.

The general population wore clothing with vertical stripes; horizontal were assigned to the more dangerous convicts. Stripes were abolished in 1913 because they were considered demeaning to the prisoners.

#### PRISON GROWTH

The prison has transformed from 40 prisoners in a boat anchored on the shore San Quentin grew to be a prison holding over 6,000 inmates. The educational program has excelled to the point where those who wish to do so can get a college degree. Because of the many programs and opportunities San Quentin has to offer, the men in blue from all over California who want to become better people work hard to get here. If a prisoner feels he has been mistreated, he can file a grievance. If the grievance is found to be true, the staff will face disciplinary action.

Today prisoners are not given lashes for rules infractions but instead can lose their good

time credits, moving their release date back.

Today, because of the federal courts, medical care for inmates is much better than it was in the 1890s. In the infant days of San Quentin, nothing was done about overcrowding but in 2011 the federal government ordered California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reduce its population.

#### INSPECTIONS

On Jan. 19, 1858, inspection teams found that 120 of 500 inmates were barefoot, food was not up to standard and cells were unsanitary and overcrowded. California Gov. Weller took the keys to San Quentin from Warden McCauley, but on May 13, 1859 they were given back to him mainly because of the support he had from the residents of Marin County, who approved the harsh treatment of inmates.

The brick industry picked back up, road gangs were put back to work and strict discipline continued as it was before the governor took over. People complained because prison laborers worked for a third of what hard working, law-abiding citizens were paid. The prisoners rebelled by trying to escape, a feat close to impossible due to the wall that was built.

#### STATE GETS CONTROL

In April 1860, the state gained back control of San Quentin and has kept it up to present time.

The state continued to upgrade the prison conditions. Warden Josiah Ames abolished the whipping post that had been used to whip prisoners for over 25 years.

In 1864 prisoners were given time off for good behavior. In 1868, the first school was started. It met once a week after service in the chapel.

Factories were moved inside the walls and inmates were contracted out for labor.

## EDUCATION CORNER

### Prisoner Champions Educating His Peers in Prison Industries

**By Tom Bolema  
Literacy Coordinator**

Sajad Shakoor occupies a unique job assignment among California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) residents. He is an employee of the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) at San Quentin (SQ) where inmate crews make mattresses and furniture for CDCR institutions statewide, hospitals, schools, and other state agencies.

Production has slowed dramatically since the advent of re-alignment, resulting in inmate worker layoffs. However, Shakoor's position is secure. In collaboration with the Voluntary Education Program (VEP), his job is to prepare the production workers for the GED test.

Shakoor exceeds the standard qualifiers for his position. He is a UC Berkeley Certified Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Specialist, and Laubach certified tutor. He has Associate Arts degrees from Coastline Community College and Patten University.

Shakoor has been working in PIA for two years as Health and Safety Coordinator and GED Instructor. His job requires a mixture of vocational and academic skill sets. He is responsible for critical OSHA analyses, and equally critical group test preparation. These responsibilities require a strong education background to validate and set the employee's ability and liability.

Shakoor initiated the PIA link to SQ's Burton Adult School, which has four full time VEP

teaching positions. Only two are filled at this time. Students meet face-to-face with a VEP teacher roughly twice per week. The teacher oversees the program and proctors TABE and pre-GED tests to qualify the candidates. PIA workers are especially motivated to have a GED because the DOM requires it of them, and PIA will not grant a pay raise to a worker who doesn't have one. Workers are allotted two hours per day of work time to prepare for the GED test as per DOM.

The results are tangible. The VEP/PIA collaboration has produced eight GED graduates. About 10 students are currently enrolled, which is about half of the enrollment before the re-alignment layoffs. The VEP also extends distance learning services to the Ad-seg and Condemned units, and includes plans to employ teams of inmate tutors.

Some of the unemployed PIA students have committed to continue their GED studies on an independent study basis, with as-needed classroom contact. Shakoor plans to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Literature July 2012 from Ohio University, then to enroll in a Masters Degree Program at CSU Dominguez Hills. He also conducts Arabic language lessons each evening in his housing unit.

*Tom Bolema is a free-staff Literacy Coordinator at Burton Adult School, San Quentin.*

### Radio Programming for Prisoners Without TVs

**By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer**

For recent arrivals, especially those without TVs to watch (West Block), there are a few specialty evening programs on the radio you may find worth a visit over the weekends.

Starting on Friday from 10 p.m. to midnight on FM 94.1, KPFA, is The History Of Funk, with Ricky Vincent. Ricky studied music history at UC Berkeley in 1987 and found a gaping hole called Funk. His professor, Roy Thomas, encouraged his research, which led to a campus radio program, and then into KPFA for the last 10 years. Recent guests have been Larry Graham, bassist for Sly and the Family Stone.

George Clinton of Parliament took an evening to play various versions by other artists of one of his biggest hits, Atomic Dog. Clinton's book, "Funk," is in the San Quentin library with photos and history of the groups that made it happen. The locator number is 781.64 VIN.

Saturday at midnight on the strong AM 910 station are two-hour original episodes of The Twilight Zone, dramatized for radio broadcast where you just close your eyes and see it all unfold.

For those who enjoy 60 Minutes, the audio version is aired Sundays at 7 p.m. on FM106.9 CBS Radio.

If there are other specialty shows that stand out, please write up a short story and bring it to the S.Q. Journalism Guild meeting at 9 A.M. in the red roofed building behind Education. No ducat is required.

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

The San Quentin News invited various prisoners to express their thoughts about their mothers as Mother's Day approaches. Here are some of the responses:

## Words to My Mother

Chris Scull - Happy Mother's Day momma. Thank you for telling me to get a good education. Thank you for giving me birth and loving me unconditionally.

Stephen Pascasio - Even though physically you're no longer here mom, I thank God for the way you raised me. The things you taught me as a child I am implementing in my life today, like treat others as you want to be treated and always be a help to your neighbors.

Alex P. Ruiz - Thank you for showing me the true meaning of a mother's love. I am blessed to be your son. You are beautiful and strong. I am forever grateful to have you in my life.

Juan Riojas - To my mother, Maria: You are there in times of pain and grief, and you are someone to talk to. Happy Mother's Day, straight from my heart. I will always love my momma. Tu eres vien Trucha, mamma.

Fabian Vazquez - I wish I could be there with you to tell you how much I love you, and to thank you for giving me my life.

Steve Cuevas - To my mom, Rose, the only person that has loved me through all of the toughest of times, and has shown me that a heartfelt love should never be doubted. You provide a warm respectable home for my daughter, Makayla, and hold that great position of being her mom. She is your diamond and I love you for this and I will forever respect your unconditional love. Gracias, your hijo.

Miguel Quezada - Feliz dia de las madres a mi jefita y mis queridas hermanas. Las amo y extraño mucho. Agradeces todo lo que han hecho por mí y por ser un buen ejemplo en mi vida. Me despidio con un fuerte abrazo. Su hija Migue.

Jose Mora - Feliz dia de las madres a mi madresita querida and to my wife, Happy Mother's Day. I love and miss you. And also to the mother of my children, Happy Mother's Day, and my princess, Bri. To my sons, love and miss you. Les mando un abrazo rompe costillas. And to my baby sis, Susie, Happy Mother's Day.

Marco - I love you so much, and I thank you for giving me life, for sacrificing your freedoms and future to ensure that I was always warm and safe. You gave so much.

Sam W. Johnson Sr. - My mom meant the world to me throughout my father's alcoholism. She continued to hold the family together. Through all the fights and abuse, she loved us unconditionally. She is the matriarch of all mothers and an example of God's love in a world that can be so cold and heartless. My mother-in-law has been there for me since my imprisonment. When I think about unconditional love, it brings tears to my eyes and joy to my soul. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms in the world.

Michael A. Tyler - Mom, this is a day that we all should focus on you. I focus on you all the time. God truly blessed me when he allowed me to be put in your path and allowed your heart to be big enough to have me in it. You're truly the one that has loved me, for that I'm grateful. Words, gestures, or gifts can't fully contain the love and appreciation I have for you.

Clinton Martin - To my mother, Donna, my strength, my rock and to all women in the world, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for never turning your back to a man in need. I thank you for your caring, understanding, and deep appreciation. Bless you and all the women in the world.

Ricky Malik Harris - I apologize that it took me this long to start listening to your advice, Happy Mother's Day.

Derek Loud - For a special mother on a special day: You mean more to me than words can say. I love you always.

Kevin Fuqua - I love you and I miss you momma, I wish I were home to give you a hug and a kiss. I thank you for being the wonderful mother, great provider, and inspiration in my life. I know you miss me and I know you're going through tough times and I believe in my heart that I'll be home soon, so stay strong and keep the family together because we get our family values from you.

Chevell M. Payne - I wish Katrina L. Ponce a Happy Mother's Day and may God bless her and her beautiful daughters.

Troy Williams - But for the unconditional love of my mother, I would not be the changed man that I am today. She stuck by me when nobody else would. As a result of her love, I was able to get a sense of my worth, a sense of value and now I know that I'm capable of loving others just the same. I thank you, mom, for the gift of life.

Kimini Randall - Your personal substance as a woman, but most important as my mother, is priceless to my heart. I pray that it is in God's will that I be blessed with a woman who can mirror your essence to be my companion. Thank you for all of your unconditional love, and Happy Mother's Day.

Jonathan (J.W.) Wilson - Happy Mother's Day to the best momma in the world. Too few of us are blessed with a person such as you. If I could, I would give you the world, so you could shape it into your likeness.

Carl Saldano - To the best mother any man could ever hope for as my best friend. Happy Mother's Day and may God always keep his hands on you. Love, your son, Carl.

Stafont Smith - Linda, you have been the inspiration in my life. You shaped my character, my love and compassion. You raised me when I lost my mother at such a young age. You're a blessing and the love of my life; baseball is second only to you.



*Editor's note: This article was written by a retired college professor who asked that her name not be used.*

**Around two million men and women are in prison in the United States, more than any other country in the world. That means a corresponding number of moms have children in prison. Many others are affected by incarceration such as friends and family members: fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, wives, husbands and children.**

**Do you know any of those two million? Are any in your family? Most likely not. It is not the first thing one mentions, nor maybe the last, when discussing family members. "Well, how are the kids doing?" You will hear about the one with the Bachelor of Science degree from Harvard who runs her own business, or the son who has his Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin, or the son who is a scholar/athlete, but not always about the one in prison. And how about the Christmas News Letter? Did you ever receive one that says that their daughter or son is in prison? Or an "inmate." So, where are all the people who are incarcerated? They all have family.**

**Well, why do you think people are reluctant to share that their child is in prison? When your child makes a wrong turn, bad choice, breaks the law, parents usually get the blame, or they blame themselves. It is quite natural, for example, when there is a serial killer that the news media will search out the person's background. What kind of mom did he/she have? Ask most parents who have children in prison, and they probably would have advised against the behavior that resulted in their children being incarcerated. However, now they are dealing with the consequences.**

**Interestingly, whenever I mention to others that my son is in prison, people will confide that their son or daughter is or was in prison or they themselves, or a friend's son was in prison. But, it takes someone first to mention it, and obviously one picks and chooses who to tell, especially keeping in mind that your child will face a lot of discrimination and hurdles upon release.**

**So, two reasons may be offered up as to why you may not know anybody whose child is in prison: the parents feel they are to blame or others blame them; and secondly, their children will have more difficulty reintegrating into society upon release if many know.**

**My son has been in prison for a year and a half now, and I empathize with other moms, especially at Mothers' Day. To begin with, it is with great anguish for a mom to see her child shackled and handcuffed in court. In addition, the first visit to the prison is a lesson in frustration: don't wear metal, don't wear blue or green, walk this path, sign here, leave your driver's license there, etc. As a parent, one almost becomes a prisoner oneself. Added are the other hurdles to undergo, such as paying outrageous phone bills for a few calls, paying huge amounts for food that can be bought for much less outside the prison, not being able to phone, being worried about your child being beat up or tasered, but most of all, being concerned about how your child will cope with a prison environment and how they will adjust to the outside world upon release.**

**Speaking for myself, and for many other moms, I'm sure his family loves my son, and there is great hope for a normal life upon leaving that environment. In my mind, he is not an "inmate" or number, he is my wonderful son. When I visit him at the prison, I see other family members of prisoners who obviously love and care for their children, too. Older grandparents visits as well as husbands, wives and children.**

**So, my congratulations to all the moms who are so loving and faithful to your children. Here's wishing you a wonderful Mothers' Day, even if you can't visit, talk or email your daughters or sons. Receiving a Mothers' Day card from your child in prison will make your day. And for those mothers who don't have children who are incarcerated, I hope you now better understand moms who do. Happy Mother's Day to you, too.**

**David Vest - Dear mom, you did a good job raising me. You were always there. I could always trust you and you loved me to the best of your ability. I should've listened to you. I love you mom. Happy Mother's Day. I love you too, Susy.**

**Jason McGinnis - Mother, my love for you knows no bounds; your unconditional love, caring and support through all these years have truly made you a "real mom." Here's wishing you the happiest Mother's Day, with love from your Jason.**

**Randy Carey - Mom, thank you for raising me like you did and for showing me right from wrong. I love you with all my heart and I always will. Happy Mother's Day. Your loving number one son, Randy.**

**Stev'o Phillips - It's been many years since we've been together on this date and it may seem like a lifetime. You're always in my thoughts on this day and through this lifetime. Stay healthy, stay happy and smile for me. Love, your son, Stev'o.**

**Vinh Hong Nguyen - A Vietnamese writer said it best: "Long me bao la nhu bien thai binh," which means "the mother's love for her child is like the Pacific Ocean, it's endless." The virtue that I possess, the man that I am, and my walk in life today is thanks to the love and compassion my mother has taught me through the years. Happy Mother's Day. I love you.**

**Nghiep "Ke" Lam - When I think of a mother, thoughts of you come to my mind and heart. Since I was a child, you have been there to shower me with your precious love, time and words. There are no words to describe how much I love you. I hope you have a wonderful Mother's Day, "Ah' Pol" (grandma).**

**Angelo Falcone - La unica persona en el mundo que me ama sin condicion, es mi querida madre. Mama, usted me enseño el verdadero significado de del amor de una madre. Su amor me mantiene vivo con esperanza. Gracias por quererme tanto. Sin usted, yo no estaría aqui.**

**Sean Malis - For my mom, Amy Juliet: Life, Existence, Being, Spirit; Family, Community, Faith, Compassion; Liberation, Joy, Peace, Love. This gift is my Mom: Love awaking me to Life.**

**Chris Marshall - I cherish my mom for her wisdom, her nurturing caresses, but especially for her beautiful laughter. Happy Mother's Day, mom. I look forward to our next walk on the beach.**

**Vernon Britten - Happy Mother's Day. I know that you just buried your brother, so I'm sending this to you with all the love in the world.**

**Michael Best - Maternal instinct between mother and child is inseparable. I wish you a beautiful Mother's Day. Love always, Calvin, Michael and Doris.**

**Jerome L. Boone - Mom, I put you through so much, but my motivation for the positive things that I do today are because of you. in the past, You might think I wasn't receptive to the lessons and help you gave me, but they are the tools I apply to my life today. Happy Mother's Day.**

**Adam Verdoux - Dear mother, I'm waiting to go to English 204 at Paten College. I'm doing this so I can become the man I always should've been and the son we have always deserved. I love you always.**

**Thomas Winfrey - In my world, every day is Mother's Day. You are everything good, right, and everything I'm proud of in my life is centered around you. You symbolize unconditional love to me, purity of heart, acceptance, and an angel on earth. How to put into words the kindness, caring and devotion my mother has shown me, my entire life in a way defies my ability.**

**Frankie Smith - Mom, I hope this day brings you all the happiness you deserve. Without your encouragement and love, I would never have accomplished what I've accomplished. Thank you. With love and respect on your special day. God bless you.**

**James Clark - While serving a 25-to-life sentence, I woke up one morning with an epiphany. This epiphany was a true understanding of my mother's unconditional love for a son who had a drug addiction and was involved in criminal behavior for over 22 years. During my 50 years, my mother has always been there for me and she has never given up on me. I love you, mom. You're my rock. Happy Mother's Day.**

**Dennis Pratt - Mom, when you left this world, I blamed myself, because my actions were not of a loving son. I did not get the chance to tell you how much I love you. I'm sorry for everything. I miss you so much.**

**David Baker - Thanks for the many years in time that you spent with me through the good and the bad. You were always the best mother that I could ever ask for. Your memories will never fade away and you will never be forgotten, though you're deceased, I still treat you as if you were still here. I love you, mom.**

**Tristan Jones - Dear mom, how do I make this so perfect? I'm spoiled far beyond what anyone deserves. I believe love is far beyond a feeling; it's an action, and your actions have proved beyond any doubt that I am loved. I hope one day to return that feeling to you. Happy Mother's Day. Love, your son, Tristan.**

**Chris Schuhmacher - Mom, Happy Mother's Day. I want to tell you how much I love you and how much I appreciate you being there for me every step of the way throughout my life. For me, I would say a mother's love is about the closest thing you can get to the unconditional love of God. I consider myself truly blessed to have received that love, in more ways than one.**

**Michael Endres - Mom, I haven't always been the greatest son, but I've known you've always loved me and missed me when I've been away. Thank you for being you. Happy Mother's Day, and happy birthday. I love you, miss you and think of you every day.**

**David Vest - Dear mom, you did a good job raising me. You were always there. I could always trust you and you loved me to the best of your ability. I should've listened to you. I love you mom. Happy Mother's Day. I love you too, Susy.**

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# SPORTS



Alex Smith gripping the football

Official Photo

## Alex Smith to Lead 49ers Next Season

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

Forty-Niner fans seem less enthusiastic since quarterback Alex Smith re-signed. Fans are complaining that he is simply a "game manager," who can't take the team on his shoulders and win games.

He may not be one of the great quarterbacks in the NFL such as Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, but he has the tools to get the job done.

It is clear that Head Coach Jim Harbaugh and the 49ers believe he can succeed and Smith's new three-year contract is evidence of Harbaugh's confidence in him.

Smith's heart was on display when he threw for 299 yards against a Greg Williams defense that was found guilty by the NFL for running a "Bounty Program."

Forty-Niner fans were disappointed in his performance against the New York Giants in the NFC championship game, in which he threw for only 196 yards and two touchdowns.

There are extraordinary circumstances that may account for his lackluster performance. Consider the talented Giants' defense and the lack of impact receivers Smith had to throw to.

## Anticipating the Coming 2012 San Quentin Baseball Season

By Ron Martin  
Contributing Writer

The San Quentin baseball teams are working toward an exciting opening day of baseball.

As the 2012 San Quentin baseball season quickly approaches, the excitement begins to build on the lower yard.

With the recent increase of men in the general population, there is a lot of new talent to scout. Some of the veterans and new arrivals took advantage

Wide receiver Joshua Morgan broke his leg early in the year. Braylon Edwards had never truly recovered from his knee injury, and Ted Ginn Jr. sprained his knee against the Saints.

In 2006, his first year as a starter, Smith threw for 2,890 yards under former offensive coordinator Norv Turner. But, a revolving door of coaches, a lack of talented receivers and previous shoulder injuries may have stunted his development.

Now Smith has a chance to show that he can be considered one of the premier quarterbacks in the NFL. The addition of a hopefully motivated Randy Moss, and a good receiver in Mario Manningham, should improve Smith's stats in the upcoming 2012 season. Manningham made a great sideline catch in the Superbowl against the New England Patriots.

Last year, Smith brought his team to within one game from the Superbowl, the furthest the 49ers have gone since they won the Superbowl. He threw for 3,144 yards with only five interceptions. He ranked ninth in the NFL in ESPN's quarterback rating (90.7). That doesn't sound like a Number 1 overall bust to me.

## Warlocks' Head Coach Talks of Life and Sports

Aaron "Imam Judd" Taylor, Head Coach of the San Quentin Warlocks' flag football team, discusses his sports background and how he developed a positive environment for incarcerated men to excel through the creation of different sports leagues.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, he was introduced to sports by his uncle, Stephen Wade Sr. Wade worked at the "All People's Community Center" on 22nd and Central.

"My brother, my cousins, and I all played on his baseball team called the Astros, at Gilbert Lindsay Park, which is across the street from the old Dodger Club. I played football for the Crenshaw High Cougars, and I was backup receiver and backup defensive back," he said.

**What stopped you from pursuing a sports career after high school?**

The clash came in because I had the pull of the homies on one side and Coach Garrett on the other. He was trying to give me positive stuff. Everything he did was on a positive tip. But, the streets won.

**What coaches influenced you the most?**

Joe Weekly and even the basketball coach Willie West. We have numerous championships at Crenshaw High School in basketball and baseball.

**Did you coach any teams?**

I was a football coach at Baldwin Hills Cougars for the Pee-Wee teams. For two years, I coached there. We were .500

Official Photo  
Coach Aaron Taylor

one season and .450 the next. I was the quarterback and receivers coach. At Centinela State Prison I was the head coach of the softball team called the African Stars. We won the title in 2008. At that same time I created two leagues, the Convicts All-Star Softball League (CSL) and about a month later Convicts All-Star Basketball League. At Centinela at that time, they had emergency bunk sleepers in the building. That was 20 double bunks for 40 inmates, in four buildings. Then the gym had 120 inmates in it. At that same time Centinela closed all of their vocational classes in 2007. So, what you had is approximately 1,300 inmates walking around

with nothing to do. The Sports Leagues gave them an outlet for all of that idle time.

**What was your primary goal for starting different leagues?**

The primary goal for starting the leagues was so that my Christian brothers could go to church on Monday and my Muslim brothers could go to Jum'ah on Fridays. The leagues gave B Facility 36 months of little to no incidents through the sports leagues, and it earned me a Captain's Chrono.

**What kind of life skills can someone develop through playing sports?**

Sports are the ultimate conflict resolution. You are at war with yourself and in a sense you're at war with your opponent. Sports give you a guideline on how to conduct yourself while seeking to achieve the highest goal of winning. A true sportsman loses with honor and wins with humility.

**Who do you credit for putting you on the right path?**

It's hard to pick one. The most profound statement that would be the culmination of all the advice I was given from Mao Tse Tsung: "In shallow minds the fish of small thought causes a great commotion. But in oceanic magnanimous minds the whales of inspiration cause hardly a ripple."

—Gary Scott

*Journalism Guild Chairman Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.*

## New Intramural Basketball League Bounces Into SQ's Lower Yard

*Drew Piazza, founder and league official of the first intramural league at San Quentin, explains the significance of creating a competitive league where men can come together and be a part of a team.*

*Piazza, a former sports editor of the San Quentin News, expresses what was the idea behind starting the intramural league:*

"With the influx of new people here, I noticed there was a need for something for them to do. The San Quentin Kings and Warriors Basketball program could only facilitate about 40 or so guys. But, there were a 1,000 or so new arrivals. This is what I've done at other facilities. I just thought it was the right thing to do."

After the first games began he said, "The fact that San Quentin has never had an intramural basketball league because programs here were basically set up to play outside teams, I was a little optimistic. But, I knew

the energy was there; the need was there; and I had the mindset of making it work. So I was pleased.

"We're starting from scratch of course. There's no set patterns or programs so we're using a league format where each team plays each team twice. At mid season we will have an 'All Star Game' with the coaches

**"San Quentin never has had an intramural basketball league because programs here were basically set up to play outside teams."**

that have the two best records. They will coach the All Star teams and after the 16th week, we'll have an 'All League Team' that will challenge the Kings and the Warriors" said Piazza.

He said that the league will be split into two divisions. There will be four teams in the east

and four teams in the west. The top three teams in each division will make the play-offs.

Piazza emphasized that the league helps the incarcerated men at San Quentin. He said, "I think the league helps facilitates everything the population needs. I don't think the facility is ready to take in so many people. It helps with the adaptation, the energy. The participation for the staff has been great. I would like to thank Mr. Di Nevi for allowing us to put this league together."

As the league official, he also discussed the importance of calling a good game. "I always noticed that when sports were being played there was a lot of cheating and favoritism involved, so I kind of felt compelled to step in and do the best I could to make it good and clean," he said.

—Gary Scott

*Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story*

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Snippets

Monopoly's mascot was originally called Rich Uncle Pennybags. He was renamed to Mr. Monopoly in 1998.

One phrase spoken by a human being requires about 100 muscles of the chest, neck, jaw, tongue and lips.

To get astronauts and a spacecraft to the moon, it cost the United States approximately \$40 billion.

Halloween is the most important candy-eating occasions of the year for Americans. In 2001, seven billion pounds of candy was consumed, according to the National Confectioners Association.

Ebony is one wood that termites will bypass.

Rolls Royce once used spermaceti oil, made from the sperm whale, as transmission oil.

Space dust, totalling roughly 1,000 tons enters the atmosphere and makes it to the earth's surface every year.

Did you know that bamboo releases 35% more oxygen than trees because they are made up of more water than normal trees.

As the Titanic was sinking, the band was playing the song "Nearer My God To Thee." The seawater was close to 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-2 degree Celsius).

Yugoslavia was a geographic, political entity in the Balkan region of Europe. The term Yugoslavia was coined under King Alexander I, who inherited the Serbian throne from his father in 1921.

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Contributing Writer

Wakan is a Lakota word that means "power." It can also mean "mysterious," "wonderful," "incomprehensible," and "holy."

Because Wakan cannot be understood, it is impossible to completely control it. Anything Wakan is hard to understand. The Wakan of a warrior is his skill in battle and his absence from injury during warfare. But, the Wakan of a shaman is the source of his spiritual power.

Wakan can easily be acquired by anyone, and it can be used for either good or evil. Wakan is the expression of many things, all that can be felt, but not understood.

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

What Letter comes next in the sequence  
Below?

IIIIIIIVVVIVVIIIIIIII

Last month's Answer: is 49 or 91

Congratulations to: John Warren, and Jeff Dumont for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Frank Vadivia, David Westerfield, Anthony Gallo, Charlie Thao, Peter Chhem, Chris Schuhmacher, T. Long, Kevin Alexander and Bori Ai for correctly answering the puzzle. Last months winners were drawn from a hat.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.



## For Laughs

An old man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig up his tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son.

"Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomatoes this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me. Love, Dad."

A few days later he received a letter from his son....

"Dear Dad, don't dig up that garden. That is where I buried the bodies. Love, Vinnie."

At 4:00 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. The next day the old man received another letter from his son.

"Dear Dad, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you, Vinnie."



Featured artwork of Chad Tobias

*Ships are only hulls, high walls are nothing  
when no life moves in the empty passageways.*

*Sophocles*

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

5	2	1	9	3	4	8	6	7
9	4	7	1	8	6	3	2	5
6	3	8	2	5	7	4	1	9
7	9	6	8	1	5	2	3	4
3	5	4	6	9	2	1	7	8
1	8	2	4	7	3	9	5	6
4	6	3	7	2	8	5	9	1
2	7	9	5	4	1	6	8	3
8	1	5	3	6	9	7	4	2

		7		1	9	6		
4	6			7		3	1	
			8			4		
		8					6	
5								1
		9					3	
			4			5		
1	3	9			5	2	4	7
		2	7	9	1			

## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**THE NYMPHO AND OTHER MAN-ACS** (By Irving Wallace) Timeless true tales of historically influential women.



**THE SHORT FOREVER** (By Stuart Woods) Low-lives complicate Stone Barrington's job extracting a client from Britain



**THE QUICKIE** (By James Patterson) It's not so simple when a cop has an affair to retaliate against a husband in this twister page turner.



**FLIRTING WITH DANGER** (By Suzanne Enoch) Cat burglar and her intended billionaire victim hunt down their would be killers.

### RATINGS:



Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

**1. ARIZONA** – In February, a single drug was used for the first time in an American prison execution, replacing the three-drug protocol. Robert Henry Moermann was convicted of killing and dismembering his adoptive mother while he was out of prison on furlough for another crime. Before he was put to death, he apologized to his family and to the family of an 8-year-old girl he kidnapped and molested in 1972. “I hope this brings closure and they can start healing now,” he said. “I just hope that they will forgive me in time.”

**2. SAN FRANCISCO** - In the first Jerry Brown administration, California had 44,000 people in prison. There are 44,000 prison guards today. “It costs seven times as much to put someone in prison as to educate them to keep them out of prison,” said Robert Corrigan, San Francisco State University president. Among African-Americans age 18 to 30, Corrigan said more are in prison, on parole or under the control of the criminal justice system than are in college. Calculating the percentage of third-graders who can read gives an accurate prediction of the amount of prison beds needed in the future, he said.

**3. SAN FRANCISCO** - Richard Schoenfeld, the youngest of the three Chowchilla kidnappers, is entitled to release, a state appeals court has ruled. Schoenfeld has been incarcerated nearly 36 years and has been denied parole 19 times. However, in 2008, the board said that he no longer is a danger to society, based on his good prison behavior, acceptance of responsibility, and educational and job training. This finding entitles him for release, the state Court of Appeals ruled in February. If the board appeals to the state Supreme Court, Schoenfeld would stay in prison while the court considers the appeal and for a longer period if it agrees to review the case. Schoenfeld, then 22, and his older brother James, both of Atherton, and Fred Woods



of Portola Valley hijacked a bus at gunpoint in Chowchilla, July 1976. They put the driver and the children in vans, drove them to Livermore, buried them in a quarry and demanded a \$5 million ransom. The victims dug their way out after 16 hours.

**4. FLORIDA** - The United States Supreme Court ruled Terrence Graham’s sentence as a teenager unconstitutional. In the resentencing, the appeals judge noted that the Florida Legislature did not provide a method to apply the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling or to give judges resentencing guidelines. Graham was 16 when he pleaded guilty to taking part in an armed robbery. A year later, he was arrested for a home-invasion robbery. Under a Florida law that allowed juveniles to be treated as adults, Graham was sentenced to life without parole. He is scheduled to be released in 2029.

**5. NORTH CAROLINA** - Marcus Reymond Robinson is the first person to challenge his death sentence under the state’s Racial Justice Act. It permits a

Death Row prisoner to cite statistical patterns to argue their jury selections or sentences were unfair based on race.

**6. TEXAS** – A man proclaiming his innocence to the end became the third person executed in Texas this year. Keith Thurmond was executed in March for killing his wife and her boyfriend. About an hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected arguments to halt his execution, he was injected with lethal drugs. It took him 11 minutes to die. “All I want to say is I’m innocent,” Thurmond said from the death chamber gurney. “I didn’t kill my wife.” He blamed the shooting deaths on another man. “I swear to God I didn’t kill her,” he said. With that, he told prison officials, “Go ahead and finish it off.” As the drugs began flowing, he said, “You can taste it.” He wheezed and snored before losing consciousness.

**7. SACRAMENTO** - California prison officials made public possible modifications to rules that kept some gang members in segregated units

for years. That led to prisoners conducting statewide hunger strikes last year. Previously, gang associates were automatically sent to the security housing units. Of the 2,300 offenders who are in the isolation units because of their gang involvement, nearly 1,800 are considered gang associates. The units also house non-gang prisoners convicted of killing other prisoners, who attacked staff members or were involved in prison riots. Under the proposed policy, many gang associates could continue living in the general prison population. That shift alone could significantly reduce the population in the security units, a state official said.

**8. MISSISSIPPI** - The last three prisoners pardoned by former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour were released in March, after the state’s highest court cleared the way for their freedom. Barbour pardoned more than 200 prisoners as he left office. He said he showed mercy out of a spirit of forgive-

ness – wanting to give them a second chance.

**9. WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Corrections Corporation of America plan to privatize prisons was criticized by the Council of Prison Locals of the American Federation of Government Employees for weakening prison security, putting community safety at risk and pushing states to take on added debt.

**10. MISSISSIPPI** - William Mitchell was executed in March for the 1995 murder of Patty Milliken.

**11. IOWA** – A federal judge reversed Angela Johnson’s death sentence, saying her defense lawyers were “alarmingly dysfunctional” during her 2005 trial. Johnson was the first woman sentenced to death in the federal system since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. The judge said her defense attorneys failed to present evidence about her troubled mental state that could have spared her from execution.

**12. WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Twenty-one Death Row prisoners won an order stopping the use of sodium thiopental, an imported drug given as anesthesia prior to administration of lethal injections. A federal judge ruled that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration violated its own rules by allowing entry of the drug into the country without making sure that it worked effectively. “Prisoners on Death Row have an unnecessary risk that they will not be anesthetized properly prior to execution,” U.S. District Judge Richard Leon wrote in a 22-page ruling in March. He added that the agency had created a “slippery slope” for entry of other unapproved drugs. In an accompanying two-page order, the judge banned the import of sodium thiopental, calling it a misbranded and unapproved drug, and directed Arizona, California, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and any others with stocks of the barbiturate to send them to the FDA.

## California Appeals Court Rulings Assist Lifers

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

In two separate decisions, a California appeals court determined that the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) improperly denied parole to two inmates serving life terms for murder. The decisions clarified the language used by the California Supreme Court stating that a parole board’s decision must be “upheld unless it is arbitrary or procedurally flawed.”

The court reviewed the parole board’s decisions under the “ultra-lenient” “some-evidence” standard, noting that the Supreme Court has not defined what is meant by “procedurally flawed.” However, the Supreme Court ruled in a 2011 case [*Shaputis II* 53 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup>, 192] that the board’s

interpretation of the evidence “must be upheld if it is reasonable, in the sense that it is not arbitrary, and reflects due consideration of the relevant factors.”

The court reviewed the board’s decisions in the cases to ensure that due process requirements were met. According to the court, due process requires that the board’s decision “reflects due consideration of all relevant statutory factors, and, if it does, whether its analysis is supported by a modicum of evidence in the record, not mere guesswork, that is rationally indicative of current dangerousness.”

The court determined that there was no evidence that Christopher Morganti was currently dangerous when he

was denied parole at a 2010 parole hearing. The board had denied Morganti parole citing a need for more understanding into his substance abuse and his motivation for using drugs. The court cited Justice Liu’s statement in *Shaputis II* that “lack of insight, like any other parole unsuitability factor, supports a denial of parole only if it is rationally indicative of the inmate’s current dangerousness.” (*Shaputis II*, 53 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> at p. 226) The court stated that an inmate’s insufficient understanding of the causes of his crime might provide evidence that he is unsuitable for parole. However, the mere existence of an unsuitability factor is not “some evidence” of current dangerousness.

The court believed that the board’s decision was based on the sufficiency of Morganti’s insight into his substance abuse not on an absence of insight and questioned “whether anyone can ever adequately articulate the complexity and consequences of past misconduct.” The court stated that the key question is not whether there was “some evidence” Morganti lacked insight into his past criminal conduct but whether he constitutes a current threat to public safety. The court held in *In re Christopher Morganti, on Habeas Corpus* (First District, Division Two) No. A132610, filed March 28, 2012, that the record contained no evidence connecting any deficit in insight to the conclusion that Morganti would pose a risk to public safety.

The same Court of Appeal (*In re Andrew Young on Habeas Corpus*, No. A131729, filed on March 14, 2012) vacated a board decision denying parole to Andrew Young because he lacked insight into what the board considered to be a particularly egregious crime.

The court concluded that the board failed to consider all of the statutory factors in making its decision to deny parole to Young. The court also found that the board had made incorrect factual contentions.

The court specifically rejected the view asserted by the dissent in the case that limited the court’s role to searching the record for some evidence to support the board’s decision.

## EDITORIAL

# The Truth About Cinco de Mayo

May 5, 1862

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Cinco de Mayo is upon us once again.

As a Mexican-American, I'm astounded by the way this holiday became so important in the United States. How and why it is so important is partly found in to whom it is so important.

I discovered that making money on this holiday is a big thing – good old fashion capitalism is found in this holiday, just as with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's all about the all-mighty dollar, not Mexico or Mexican-American cultural identity, or history.

**Let's put things in perspective.**

In 1862, Abraham Lincoln had a lot to worry about. The country was on the verge of self-destruction by its own hand. During that same time, France, Spain and England rushed troops into Mexico, wanting to collect on mounting debts.

Eventually, the representatives of Spain and England came to an agreement with Mexican President Benito Juarez and went home. However, Napoleon Bonaparte III took the French on a different path and marched 4,500 of his soldiers toward Mexico City.

**What really happened on Cinco de Mayo.**

On May 5, 1862, the 4,500 French troops got about 100 miles east of Mexico City. The Mexican government had tabs on the progress of the French troops, and knew that they would have to take a pause in a little known town, called Puebla. President Juarez scraped up about 2,000 soldiers and townsmen to run interference against the French army. Like many resistance forces defending their homeland against invading armies, they fought off the French with a little help from the weather, and a lot of help from the local Indians.

After the La Batalla de Puebla victory against the French, Mexicans nationwide became inspired, and from that day for-



ward, it was celebrated as Cinco de Mayo.

### The Americanization of a Mexican Holiday.

Americans began to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in 1863. Today many Americans think that Cinco de Mayo is celebrated as Mexican Independence Day. That's wrong. Mexico declared its independence from Spain on September 16, 1810.

So the question remains; how did La Batalla de Puebla become a holiday in the United States?

During the 1950s and 1960s "The Good Neighbor Policy" was supposed to build a better relationship between Mexico and the United States. This policy translated into a bonanza for U.S. corporations through a massive advertising campaign to commercialize the holiday as a celebration of cultural pride for the Mexican-Americans and all other U.S. citizens associated with Mexico.

In the early 1980s, Cinco de Mayo took a drastic change when commercialization shifted its meaning from community and self-determination to a drinking holiday. According to Jose Alamillo, professor of ethnic studies at Washington State University in Pullman, American corporations, particularly those selling alcohol, grabbed the holiday. It is the biggest sales day for Corona beer, emulated on TV and radio by Mexican rivals such as Tecate. They were eager to tap into the expanding Hispanic population in the United States. Anheuser-Bush picked Cinco de Mayo to launch its new Bud Light line. At the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Atlanta sponsors

include State Farm Insurance and Hyatt Hotels.

Advertising has become the force behind most American celebrations, including Cinco de Mayo. In 1980, corporations spent close to \$25 million on Cinco de Mayo promotions in Southern California alone; that jumped to \$57 million in 1982.

In 1985, Coors gave \$350 million to the national Council of La Raza, the American GI Forum and the League of United Latin American Citizen in exchange for withdrawing their support of a national boycott over its labor practices. In 2003 and 2004, 10 alcohol brands spent close to \$160 million to advertise on Spanish-language television, exposing Hispanics in the United States between the ages of 12 and 20 to 20 percent more alcohol advertising per capita than any other group.

There's a touch of genius in all this advertisement for a minor historical celebration in Mexico. Realistically, the emphasis should be on the Mexican Batalla de Puebla and the coming together of a community in defense of their nation, not on a corporate-sponsored drinking day, and making money off a relatively minor battle.

An estimated 45-50 million Mexicans live in the United States today and pump a trillion dollars into the economy every year, according to a recent KCBS radio program.

Today Cinco de Mayo festival can be found in at least 21 states in the United States. Clearly, they celebrate Cinco de Mayo for capitalistic reasons, not for the Mexican victory against the French.

# Hot Pot Causes Fire Sprinkler To Flood Cell in West Block

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last month water began gushing out of a third tier cell in West Block to the surprise of those living and walking below.

The cause of the flooding was a steaming hot pot that set off

the fire sprinkler in the cell of Jimmy Prator and Kevin Valvardi.

When the sprinkler went off, Prator was sitting on the top bed. The sprinkler's retainer ring popped off and hit him in the chest. However, he was not seri-

ously injured. The only damage was drenched property.

The Fire Marshall determined this incident was accidental.

Prator and Valvardi asked that some type of notice be given to new occupants about these heat sensitive devices.

## Appliance Tech Tips

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

**Rechargeable batteries.** The new Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni MH) formula does not need to be fully discharged before recharging like the older NiCads did. The number on the label is like MPG on a car. The higher the number, the farther you go. Let's say your AA battery is 2400 MA/h. That also means 1200 milliamps for 2 hours. If your radio takes 100 milliamps per hour to make music, doing the math, your batteries will supply 24 hours of music when fully charged. The charger pushes all the electrons

to one side of a wall. This flow of pressure is what makes things happen in your appliance. This chemical process does wear out with time.

One application that will destroy the chemicals in a rechargeable battery is a hot wire. The rapid discharge boils the chemicals inside and they won't charge anymore. The chargers are made to back off when the battery is full, so leaving it in for an extra day or two won't hurt it. The smaller chargers have a circuit inside that creates noise on AM and FM radios that can travel through the extension cord.

### San Quentin CARES 2012 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

On July 7th and 8th, the San Quentin CARES community will be walking 39 miles inside the prison walls in support of the S.F. Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. SQ CARES includes incarcerated men, community volunteers, and medical and institutional staff at San Quentin. Together, we are committed to raising \$10,000 for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Please help us reach this goal and move us all closer to an end to breast cancer.

To donate to S.Q. CARES online, please go to <http://info.avon-foundation.org/goto/SQCARES>.

## LETTERS

Editor:

As a former reporter and editor (now retired) on a New York City metropolitan area daily newspaper, I commend the staff for producing an outstanding newspaper. It is clear that the staff is well trained in the proper structure of a news story.

The stories are well written and interesting; the layout is crisp and well thought out. The headlines are bold and well written, drawing the reader into the story. It's everything a professional newspaper should be. I salute you all.

—Tom Condon

Dear Editor:

We wanted to express our appreciation for the San Quentin News! We live close by and had no idea of the workings of San Quentin. We especially liked the articles on the men of Death Row and their opinions. The opportunities of education on campus was good to hear.

Parole's ups and downs was

informative. Your newspaper tells the facts that are hard to find in the media.

—Jean and Bill Hagler

To  
Women Prisoners:

We understand that you want your voices heard. Many of your stories are not told, so we want to give the women a voice too - especially with Mother's Day coming up.

We would like your story about the GET ON THE BUS effort this year. Tell us about the type of programs you have. If you have a graduation in one of the programs, send us some information about it, so that we can put it in the San Quentin News. You can have your sponsor contact our adviser at the e-mail address below.

We would like to inspire all incarcerated men and women. You are not forgotten. You can change your life for the better.

Email: [sanquentinnews@gmail.com](mailto:sanquentinnews@gmail.com)

## Artists Transform North Block Clinic

In April, prison artists transformed the dreary walls of imprisonment into a message of beauty and a commitment to change.

Patrick Maloney, who instructs the San Quentin Prison Arts Project, directed prisoners Ben Ballard, Steve Smith, Roy Gilstrap, Chadrick Tobias, and Thomas Winfrey in creating 19 paintings to cover the walls of the North Block clinic. Nurse Jamie Molina requested the project.

"Each painting sends a message of hope and that beauty can be found even in prison," Winfrey said. "This artwork is a unique creation, born to communicate a message from the artist, and it allows the viewer to see the world from our perspective."

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The men in blue at San Quentin are trying to hold on to their "pay numbers." Pay numbers are the wages some prisoners earn for full-time job assignments. They are paid up to 95 cents an hour. The types of jobs vary from porters, clerks and painters to manufacturing jobs at the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) plant. In PIA alone, dozens of men have been "laid off" from their jobs this year, so pay numbers are becoming scarce.

"Asked On The Line" conducted random informal interviews with 31 mainliners that have pay numbers and asked, "Do you depend on your pay number? Do you have restitution? If you lost your pay number, where would you get money?"

Over 73 percent of those who were interviewed depend on their pay numbers. The money is used to buy food, hygiene products, vitamins, detergent, electronic appliances or accessories from canteen and packages and to send money home.

About 65 percent of mainline workers interviewed have restitution or child support payments automatically deducted from their pay. The prison administration deducts 50 percent of inmate pay for these obligations, along with a 5 percent "administrative fee."

"I absolutely depend on my pay number," said Joey. "I make 35 cents an hour at PIA. If I were to lose my pay number, I would have no other source of money—absolutely none."

Dwight said he depends on his pay number, too. "I depend on the pay number to not ask any-

one for money. But if I lost my pay number, I would be at the mercy of people on the outside."

Stephen has a janitorial job and uses his money to sustain himself and send money to his son. "I depend on my pay number. I don't have any other source of money, but sometimes people on the outside might help me, sometimes."

J.N. is a clerk that depends on his pay number. "Without my pay number, I would have to beg my family for money. I would literally have to beg."

Of the 27 percent of men that do not depend on their pay numbers, most would ask their family, friends, spouse, or other loved ones for financial support, but not Ke. "I appreciate it, but I don't depend on my pay number. If I lost it, I could still earn money through the hobby shop", said Ke.

# Sending Sermons to Prisoners

By Girard Rooks  
Contributing Writer

Why me? Why this? Who hasn't asked this at times? Two men serving time in San Quentin asked me to talk about how and why I send sermons to California prisoners.

I can answer in two ways. One, my experience of how it happened, and the other is through God's view, as I read it in the Bible.

My experience comes from the fact that I have a brother who teaches a Bible class in a jail in California. He connected with some men who went on to prison. For them, he made copies of sermons preached by the minister at his church. Over time, he was mailing these to 60

or 70 men, and family members of some.

For years, I've preached about ten times a year, at Mel Trotter Mission, in Grand Rapids, Mich. However, once I retired, I had time to type my sermons. My brother read one, and thought they'd make a good mailer, so I began sending them to him.

A few years ago, something changed and he stopped mailing sermons. When I learned of this, I asked for his mailing list, and I started mailing my messages, myself. Then, I contacted some prison chaplains, and a few of them agreed to accept, copy, and make my messages available to men in their facilities. Over time, we have reached more and more men (and now women too) in prison, and members of their

families. For several years, I have also mailed Spanish translations of the messages.

Now, God's view on this:

Psalm 139, verse 16: All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Ephesians 2: 10: We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Why me? Why this? Because God planned it and then worked things in my life to make it happen.

If you would like to receive these mailings, write me at: J.F. Girard Rooks, c/o Hanley Christian Reformed Church, O - 372 Jackson St., Grandville, MI 49418.

# Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**NOV. 28, 1980** – The Catholic Chapel played host Saturday to two local Christian bands. Appearing were the Emmanuel Group from the San Jose area and Infinity from Oakland.

**NOV. 28, 1980** – A shot was fired in the East Block to break up a scuffle between an intoxicated inmate and a correctional officer. No major injuries were reported, says prison information officer Mike Madding.

**NOV. 28, 1980** – A San Quentin inmate escaped with the help of an armed accomplice from a Marin County clinic where he had been taken for a hearing test. Richard Thompson, 42, had been living in the prison's honor unit, according to Mike Madding, S.Q. prison information officer.

**NOV. 21, 1980** – Two San Quentin prison guards and an

other man were arrested on suspicion of burglary and robbery following an attempted drug rip-off Thursday night. Warden George Sumner acknowledged that an investigation by the CDC has been on-going for "some time." "My reaction is that we are just cleaning our dirty laundry," Sumner said.

**SEPT. 24, 1982** – The state's oldest inmate, 93-year-old Isa Mae Lang, would prefer to remain in prison rather than be released on parole. Convicted of murder in 1935, the nearly blind and deaf woman is no longer considered a threat to society.

**SEPT. 24, 1982** – The ba0nd room at San Quentin is now quiet since the music program has been declared nonfunctional. An incident on June 19 has stopped all inmate evening movement, leaving no one to participate

in the program. No word from prison authorities on if or when night movement for activity programs will return.

**SEPT. 24, 1982** – The state Court of Appeal in San Francisco has ordered Soledad prison officials to allow leaf-letting in the public parking lot outside the prison. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by the Prisoners Union.

**OCT. 22, 1982** – Both San Quentin fire fighting teams responded to a fire in the sawdust silos of the furniture factory in the industries area. Damage was estimated at approximately \$15,000, and no cause was reported.

**OCT. 29, 1982** – It took a total of 17 shots of 7.5 grain birdshot to break up a fight between two determined cons fist fighting on the C-Section yard Oct. 23.

# Corrections

Roger Tillman's name was misspelled in last month's T.R.U.S.T Annual Graduation article.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

## San Quentin News

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**Administrative Review**  
Warden's Office.....Lt. S. Robinson  
Sgt. W. Baxter  
Senior Adviser.....John Eagan  
Adviser.....Joan Lisetor  
Adviser.....Steve McNamara  
Adviser.....Lizzie Buchen  
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## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

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Photo By Tom Bolema

Day of Peace participants celebrating on the Lower Yard

Turn to pages 6-7 to see pictures of San Quentin's Annual Day of Peace

## Hammer Drops in On The Last Mile Group

By Lizzie Buchen  
San Quentin News Adviser

Rapper MC Hammer is proof that anyone can become master of his own message. Last month, during a visit with San Quentin's "Last Mile" group, Hammer explained how he transformed himself from '90s punchline to social media mogul and savvy businessman.

"Every man has made mistakes," Hammer told the men. "Social media is a platform that gives you the opportunity to tell your own story."

Hammer was speaking from personal experience. He rocketed to fame in the late '80s and early '90s with hits "U Can't Touch This" and "2 Legit 2 Quit," but his reputation quickly imploded when he filed for bankruptcy in 1996. Now, Hammer is a respectable entrepreneur. He's used social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, to take control of his story and reinvent himself in the eyes of the public. As of mid-May, Hammer (@MCHammer) had 2.7 million followers on Twitter.



MC Hammer and Chris Redlitz

Hammer's journey was of interest to the men of the Last

See Hammer S.Q. on Page 2

## Inmate Found Dead In Cell

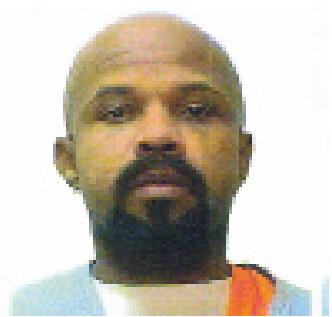
LAVELT DUVERNE SUICIDE GRIPS SAN QUENTIN

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

"When I returned to my cell, I instinctively knew something was wrong," Danny Cox said. "There was a sheet on the door blocking the view inside the cell and it was dark. I called his name three or four times. 'Lavelt' But he didn't answer."

Cox spent five days in Administrative Segregation until cleared by prison authorities regarding the suicide of his cellie, Lavelt Duverne.

Cox found Duverne on his knees slumped over. "I saw him



Lavelt Duverne

hanging," said Cox. "I saw a sight I pray no one will ever have to see. I left for work at 6:30 in the morning we said good-bye, like we normally did. But I came

back early at 2:30," said Cox. He was supposed to work with other prisoners on a scheduled prison event, called "The Day of Peace."

Cox said he reported finding Duverne to the North Block correctional officers immediately.

Subsequently prison authorities followed the policy of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by placing Cox in The Hole pending an investigation. "Once a person is traumatized like this, placing

See Lavelt Duverne on Page 4

## CDCR Aims To Change Basic Policies

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

California prison officials are asking for court permission to keep its prisons filled to 145 percent of designed capacity. The request translates to about 5,900 inmates added to the U.S. Supreme Court population cap set in 2011, according to the Legislative Analyst Office.

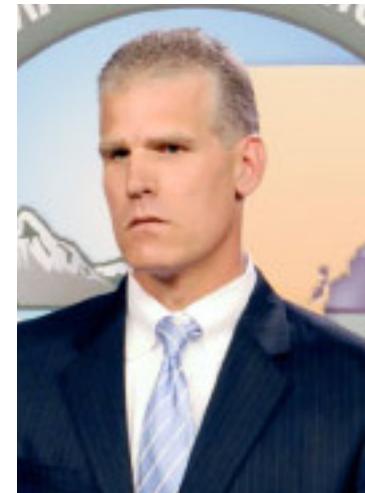
In June 2013, officials say the prison population is projected to be at 141 percent of designed capacity, even after realignment has been fully implemented. Without a modification raising the final benchmark to 145 percent, alternatives such as continuing to house prisoners out-of-state will have to be considered, the plan warns.

Prison officials claim that by fully implementing their plan, called *The Future of California Corrections*, they will be able to "satisfy the Supreme Court's order, end the class-action cases, maintain an effective prison system, and achieve significant savings."

Officials expect the plan to accomplish the following:

- Classify a prisoner's dangerousness so that it accurately reflects where that offender should

See CDCR Policy on Page 4



Official Photo

CDCR Secretary Cate

## Cate Visits Education Programs

By Bobby D. Evans, Jr.  
Contributing Writer

San Quentin's evening literacy program got a boost when California's top prison administrator visited the prison to talk to inmates and volunteers who facilitate the program.

The program was set back when the 2009-10 budget

See Matthew Cate on Page 4

## Noted Program Leader Leaves S.Q. This Summer

By Paul Stauffer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Laura Bowman-Salzsieder, who has been integral to building San Quentin's reputation as a "programming prison," will be leaving this summer.

Some 70 programs that help men turn their lives around have been assisted by Bowman-Salzsieder, manager of community partnerships at San Quentin.

After leaving San Quentin, she and her husband, a lieutenant colonel who has been in the Army for 26 years, will be moving to Florida.

For the last eight years, Bowman-Salzsieder has linked the outside community with prisoners and staff, helping facilitate a

rehabilitative atmosphere seen at no other California prison.

"Good things are possible when good people work together," said Bowman-Salzsieder.

She is the primary liaison to the local community on almost all things regarding the institution's delivery of rehabilitation services, particularly San Quentin's community participation programs, or Leisure Time Activity Groups. Bowman-Salzsieder coordinates the more than 3,000 visitors and volunteers that come into the prison each year.

She began as a bridging teacher in the prison's Education Department, where Tony Bee-

See Bowman-Salzsieder on Page 4

# Prisoners Show Savvy at 'The Last Mile' Demo Day



CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate and California's First Lady Anne Gust Brown talk to prisoner James Cavitt after the demonstration in the Protestant Chapel.

## San Quentin News Staff

San Quentin held its own version of *Shark Tank*, the popular reality show where contestants pitch business plans, in May. The biggest difference? The aspiring entrepreneurs were pitching their ideas from behind bars. Five prisoners unveiled their plans to a cheering audience of venture capitalists, dignitaries and fellow San Quentin prisoners.

"This is an opportunity for these men to demonstrate their ability to help our economy grow, and show that the glass is not half empty, it is half full," said Dave Dahl, an Oregon ex-convict and owner of Dave's Killer Bread.

The Last Mile is a program established by volunteers Kathleen Jackson, Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti. The curriculum prepares prisoners for eventual employment in Silicon Valley by teaching them how to engage in social media and other new technologies. The men develop their own business plans by the end of the nine-month program, and venture capitalists are invited into the prison to network

and assess the feasibility of the ideas.

Also attending the demonstration were California's first lady, Anne Gust Brown, and CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate. The event was a first for any California prison.

Cate said The Last Mile is an example of a program that can reduce recidivism and create a safer public.

"I'm so proud of The Last Mile students," said Parenti. "It is truly an honor to work with them. Their dedication and willingness to learn is impressive. I wish everyone could see the transformation that I've seen."

The first presenter was Tulio Cardozo, a former San Quentin prisoner. He connected with Redlitz and Parenti in January, and has been working with the group ever since. "Getting out of prison was a test of will and focus," said Cardozo. The difficulties he encountered finding employment with a criminal history gave him the idea for a business called Collaborative Benefit, which builds relationships between inmates and the business community.

James "JC" Cavitt pitched his idea for Mobile Cuts. Cavitt sees the need to accommodate the fast-paced life — and thin wallets — of young men who want to look good. Cavitt's idea for Mobile Cuts incorporates a multitude of advanced technologies into buses to bring grooming services to the people.

James Houston's business, TeenTechHub, is designed to provide an after-school program to nurture at-risk young men and women. Houston has already connected with outside groups like TeensInTech and Hackstar Academy; TeenTechHub is set to launch in 2013.

E. 'Phil' Phillips wants to allow musicians world-wide to collaborate without all the red tape now associated with producing music. Phillips describes Phixx the Mixx as the Facebook of musicians.

David Monroe Jr. created Custom My Clothing. Monroe envisions using the Internet to design and create individual styles of clothing. He says personalized clothing is a \$23 billion industry that can be used to address youth unemployment.

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal's idea, Coach Potato, builds upon the massive interactions between fantasy football players. His mobile application will allow football fans to try to pick the most successful plays during live games to win prizes.

Anne Gust Brown said she was impressed by the organization of the event and thought that the business plans were intelligently presented.

"Working side by side, we can work at creating a safe community," said Jackson.

The music was provided by Neu Dae, consisting of lead singers Richard Napoleon Brown and Darryl Buckhana, Darryl Farris on bass, and Wilbert Rogers on keyboard and vocals.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

E. Phillips, James Houston, Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal (Back)  
Kathleen Jackson, Beverly Parenti, MC Hammer,  
James Cavitt and Chris Redlitz (Front)

## Hammer's S.Q. Visit

*Continued from Page 1*

Mile, who learn to develop business ideas that utilize new technologies, particularly social media. The men are active on sites like Twitter (@thelastmilesq) and Quora, which they use via free volunteers.

The April meeting kicked off with four powerful pieces of spoken word performed by James "JC" Cavitt. The men then each presented their business ideas, which they have been developing over the past nine months. Hammer listened with interest and offered both advice and business connections — he is involved with dozens of companies as an adviser or an investor. "If I'm in a room," he explained, "I should be doing business with one out of every four people in the room."

Hammer's latest venture is a mixed martial arts (MMA) management company. He also has his hands in dozens of companies as an adviser or investor, including the health and clean

energy sectors. "I want to make sure I'm in those spaces," he said. "They're not the sexiest of plays, but in the long term, they're good plays."

Hammer has always been on the cutting edge. When he was at his rapping peak, monopolies ran the music industry, he said. "I didn't want BET and MTV deciding who sees my music." As early as 1992 he was using AOL as a platform for delivering his music.

"By the time we got to Friendster, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, I had already thought about how to maximize them." Hammer encouraged the men to continue to use social media to build their brands, not only with the start-ups they hope to create, but also their personal brands. The men will be up against those who will label them as criminals long after they have earned their freedom.

"Don't relinquish control of your story," he said. "Tell it how you want it told."

## CDCR Contractor to Block Illegal Prison Cell Phones

By Micheal Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prison telephone service provider Global Tel Link has agreed to pay for and install technology to block illegal cell phone use by California prisoners, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

The company may profit from the move because they also own the pay phones legally used by prisoners. Once the illegal cell phones are disabled, company officials say they expect the demand for pay phones will skyrocket.

More than 15,000 contraband cell phones were confiscated from prisons and conservation camps last year, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports.

"This groundbreaking and momentous technology will enable [us] to crack down on the potentially dangerous communications by inmates," CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate, told *The Times*.

Dana Simas, a public information officer for the CDCR, says the Office of Victim of Sur-

vivor Rights and Services has processed "hundreds of claims... in which victims or next of kin have complained about harassment via cell phone use." Simas acknowledged, however, that the CDCR does not know how much criminal activity has occurred as a result of contraband cell phone use.

Prisoners say cell phones are used to communicate with family and friends outside. Prison calls on pay phones are limited to 15 minutes at a time and are repeatedly interrupted by the operator. Each call, which must be made collect, also costs around two dollars for the recipient.

"The lines of communication between prisoners and family should be as open as possible," Rebekah Evenson, an attorney for the Prison Law Office in Berkeley, told *The Times*. Federal prisons allow inmates secure email accounts, and Evenson believes this might be a better way to monitor prisoners' communications.

-- Additional reporting by Lizzie Buchen, San Quentin News adviser

## Conversion of Chowchilla on Hold

By Richard Lindsey  
Journalism Writer

Facing a court challenge and community opposition, California prison officials say they will temporarily shelve plans to convert a women's prison to a men's facility.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced conversion plans in December. Because of realignment plans cutting the number of female prisoners, CDCR said it would no longer need Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, one of three state prisons for women.

The *Merced Sun Star* quotes prison officials saying they will delay the conversion until a court rules on whether an en-

vironmental impact study is required. The ruling is expected in September.

Local officials oppose the conversion because they say that it would negatively affect their community, according to the *Chowchilla News*. The newspaper quoted residents of VSPW as saying a transfer would mean giving up long-established rehabilitation programs. The women mailed numerous letters to the office of Madera County Supervisor David Rogers expressing anxiety over the conversion, the *Sacramento Bee* reported.

The *Bee* also reported that VSPW is known for its unique rehabilitative atmosphere and programming culture. The prison offers a variety of self-help

programs ranging from substance abuse, violence prevention and conflict resolution to parenting and victim awareness groups. Some women prisoners facilitate the programs they were instrumental in establishing.

State officials say the conversion plan would transfer the nearly 3,000 women currently housed in VSPW to the state's other two women's prisons and soon-to-be repurposed Folsom Women's Facility. Nearby, the Central California Women's Facility houses about 3,400 women, with a designed capacity of 2,000. The California Institute for Women, located in Southern California, houses 2,000 women, with a designed capacity of 1,200.

# Kathleen Jackson's Journey to S.Q.

## A Life of Educational Experience Now Benefits Prisoners

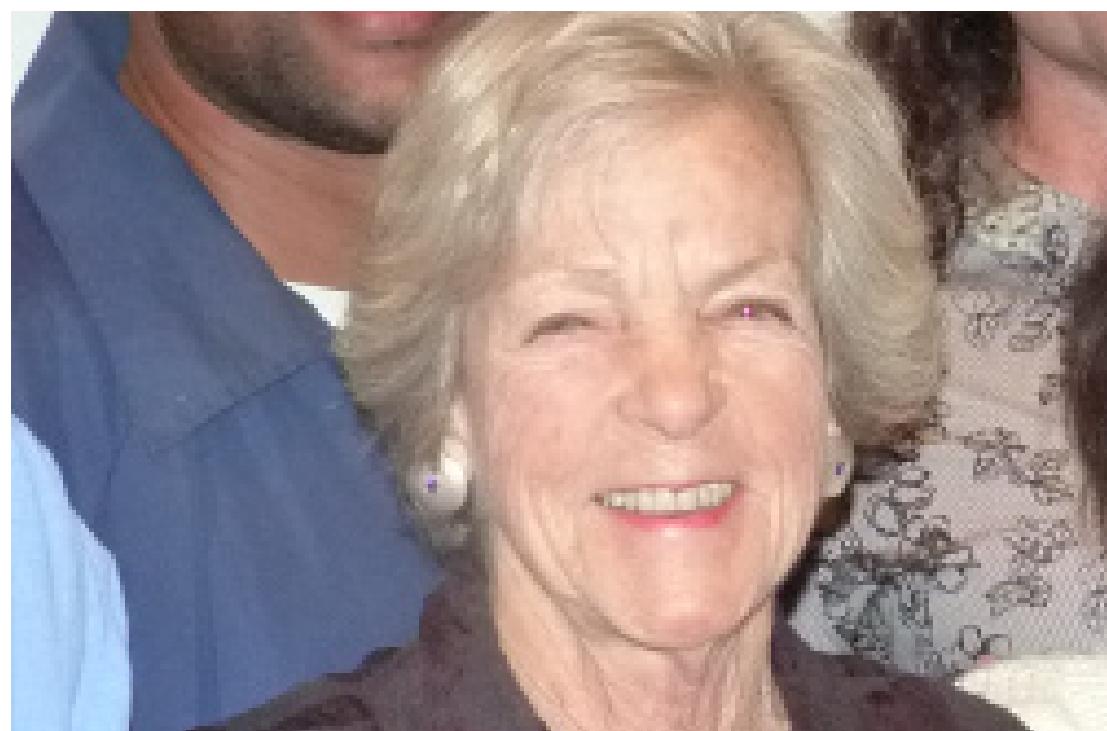
By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Rehabilitation programs and job training are the key to solving California's revolving prison doors, says Kathleen Jackson, a retired San Anselmo schoolteacher who's been working with San Quentin prisoners for seven years.

Jackson was a teacher and administrator at Marin Country Day School in Corte Madera for 24 years, and taught 12<sup>th</sup> grade English at an inner city Oakland public school for three years.

Now, at least four days a week, she volunteers at San Quentin, teaching convicted criminals how to change the way they think about themselves and their community, by facilitating programs like VOEG. VOEG is a program that connects victims with offenders in hopes of revealing how unaddressed past traumas contribute to deviant behavior. After that trauma is addressed, offenders can meet with a panel of victims of crime in order to heal the community.

"When San Quentin prisoners go through self-help and ed-



Kathleen Jackson walks the walk for The Last Mile and T.R.U.S.T.

ucational programs and work at various jobs that increase their skills, they do receive many benefits," said Jackson.

In 2008, Jackson became executive director of T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Tech-

niques). T.R.U.S.T. utilizes a series of lessons built upon a simple, clear belief: thinking controls actions. This program has been lauded by prison administrators as a positive training tool, giving offenders insight into criminal behavior

and allowing prisoners a chance to understand themselves.

Jackson helped set up a new program called The Last Mile, with the assistance of venture capitalist Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti. It is an entrepreneurial-oriented program and

had its first group of participants demonstrate their business ideas this month.

On Friday evenings, she helps teach the Christian creative writing in the Protestant Chapel.

Jackson got her beginning in 2005. She wanted to find a way to do community service, so she sat in on a San Quentin college class. "I felt extremely at home there: it was a place where I really wanted to be," Jackson said in a 2010 interview with *Marin Magazine*.

Jackson is always looking to improve the program's ability to assist offenders. In April, she went to Los Angeles to get a tour of Homeboy Industries, which provides jobs as alternatives to gangs.

"What Homeboy Industries provides is a composite of each client's needs," says Jackson. The visit reaffirmed her strategy of employing the same approach with T.R.U.S.T. "Wouldn't it be the best to have case management for every prisoner, so that the door to the free world would open only to the outside with no need to swing inward?"

## New Health Care Facility Construction Gets Underway

By Arnulfo Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Ground-breaking construction has begun on a new medical facility in Stockton designed to deliver improved services to California prisoners who are aging or have mental health issues, says prison officials.

The California Health Care Facility is designed to help meet the mandates of last year's federal court order to upgrade state prison medical care to constitutional standards, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The 1.2-million square-foot, 1,722-bed facility comes at a time when the city of Stockton is on the verge of bankruptcy.

Construction costs of \$900 million are expected to create up to 9,200 jobs, and generate an economic impact of about \$1 billion for the city, according to prison officials.

Completion is projected by the summer of 2013. At full-capacity operations, the facility is expected to support nearly 2,800 jobs in the regional economy and generate an annual income of about \$220 million.

Key features of the medical facility complex include:

- High security correctional perimeter



Construction crew putting down building foundation

- 13-foot tall lethal electrified fence surrounding the facility
- Vehicle inspection point incorporated into the fencing
- 24-hour patrol
- 11 45-foot tall guard towers
- A central utilities plant
- Diagnostic and treatment centers
- Central kitchen, warehousing and support facilities
- Significant economic impact aspects:
  - More than \$690,000 direct contribution to government
  - Estimated \$1 million in sales taxes to San Joaquin County from purchase of construction materials
  - CDCR is scheduled to make financial contributions to local and regional transportation systems through payments of traffic mitigation fees.
  - CDCR intends to pay \$679,794 to San Joaquin County and \$1,229,196 to the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

### DISABILITY PROGRAM

The San Quentin administration has announced that prisoners will be interviewing for six newly created positions: helping disabled inmates.

The assistance will include wake-up calls, escorts to appointments, education, work programs, and to the visiting room.

Additional duties include, but are not limited to, assisting disabled inmates in preparing their laundry bags.

Program restrictions include inmates who have a history of specific sex offenses and/or violence.

Assigned inmate workers will be required to submit to monthly urinalysis testing.

Interested applicants should submit an inmate request for interview to the Inmate Assignments Lt. Graham.

## PIA Worker Layoffs

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's Prison Industry Authority has cut approximately half of its labor force over the past year due to a drop in statewide sales. The workers specialize in manufacturing office furniture for government agencies, and bedding used by prisons and state colleges.

PIA was created to provide prisoners with job training that could be used once they are released from prison. A 2011 audit indicates PIA workers recidivate at lower rates, which in turn saves taxpayers nearly \$8.5 million annually in incarceration cost.

Richard Napoleon Brown worked in the furniture department for eight months, earning 40 cents an hour. "Earning an income allowed me to take care of my personal needs," he said. "The job occupied my time, giving me something useful to do throughout the day. After being laid off, I've had to readjust and

look for other work that has not been easy to come by."

Before being laid off, W.F. Stephens was employed in the chair upholstery department for six years and earned 65 cents an hour. "I was learning a skill I could've used in a work place, once I parole. It gave me great joy getting up in the morning, going to work. It made me feel good about myself and created confidence in me. Once I was laid off, it affected both my confidence and deprived me of my only income," said Stephens.

An anonymous prisoner, earning 55 cents an hour making pillows, said, "I was learning how to operate different machines, and gaining skills similar to what is needed by companies on the streets. I felt good about going to work every day, knowing I had a paycheck coming every month. The job also occupied my time, giving me something responsible to do. Once I got laid off, it's been difficult to find another job. It's affected my morale and confidence."



Photo By Tom Bolema

Community Partnership Manager  
Laura Bowman-Salzsieder

## Bowman-Salzsieder Leaving This Summer

*Continued from Page 1*

be, the current principal, was a mentor to her, she says. She admits that when she took the community partnership position, it increased her workload so tremendously that her time became spread very thin. Yet despite all the responsibilities her position imposed on her, she said she has thoroughly enjoyed the job.

"It is very hard to think back to only one fond memory that I have had here at San Quen-

tin," said Bowman-Salzsieder. "There have been so many."

She enthusiastically points to the prison's Vietnam Veterans Group, Shakespeare in San Quentin, the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, the Get on The Bus Program, the 1000-Mile Club, and all the various graduations that she has attended as examples of the successes that are possible when people come together.

--Aly Tamboura contributed to this story.

## Matthew Cate Visits Education Programs

*Continued from Page 1*

slashed \$205 million out of rehabilitation programs statewide, resulting in San Quentin's Education Department losing about 25 educators, according to literacy coordinator Tom Bolema. The plan was to replace lost staff with prisoners. However, the plan has yet to be implemented.

The prisoners asked California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary Matthew Cate to implement the plan by utilizing the skills and experience of prisoners, who already have achieved educational success, to tutor other prisoners. This will require creating additional inmate jobs. In addition, the prisoners told Cate that a more receptive environment for volunteers was needed, and that could be accomplished by building a stronger relationship between the San

Quentin Education Department and the volunteers.

"I like what I hear, and I will go to Sacramento and present this to the governor," said Cate.

He told the prisoners that the number one position of CDCR is public safety, and that prison-based education goes a long way in ensuring that goal.

Acting Warden Kevin Chappell indicated support for such a program.

Included in the meeting were Laura Bowman-Salzsieder, the community partnership manager; Jody Lewen, director of Prison University Project; and Carly Stair, an evening GED program volunteer. Each voiced support of the evening literacy program, indicating that earning a GED high school equivalency is an important step toward a higher education and reducing recidivism.

# CDCR Policy Changes

*Continued from Page 1*

be housed. Prison officials believe this will allow inmates improved access to rehabilitative programs.

- Bring back the out-of-state offenders to stop the \$318 million of taxpayer dollars going to other states. However, according to a 2010 state audit, taxpayers will have to spend an additional \$30 to \$75 million annually to bring these prisoners back to California and house them in state prisons.

- Increase access to rehabilitative programs for offenders, which will in turn reduce recidivism by better preparing them to be productive members of society. In addition, the plan establishes reentry hubs at certain prisons. This will concentrate program resources and better prepare inmates as they get closer to being released. The plan creates enhanced programming facilities to reward prisoners who demonstrate positive behavioral patterns.

- Enact new and uniform staffing standards for each institution that will enable the department to operate more efficiently and safely.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

The plan notes that CDCR scores from the Inspector General for medical care systems have been steadily improving. Furthermore, the capacity of the health care system will increase as the California Health Care Facility in Stockton, designed to

house inmates requiring long-term medical care and intensive mental health treatment, will be completed during the summer of 2013.

Its annex, the DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility, will reopen in the summer of 2014 as an adult facility to create a unified Stockton complex, allowing both facilities to efficiently transition inmate patients between the two, while avoiding transportation and security costs as well as the need for expensive services in community hospitals and clinics. These projects, in addition to ongoing mental health, dental projects, and new plans to increase medical clinical capacity at existing prisons, will satisfy court imposed requirements, according to the plan.

The strategy still calls for over 27,000 special needs beds across 33 facilities statewide for offenders who are unable to effectively program in the general population. It also implements a new gang management strategy that modifies current procedures for identifying gang members and provides support for those wanting to disengage from gang involvement.

The plan calls for a reduction of 6,400 prison employees, including the elimination of 2,500 guard positions. As many as 257 academic and vocational instructors would be hired over the next two years, with heavy reliance on involvement from volunteer community-based organizations to provide the majority of self-help programs for prisoners.

### REACTIONS

Californians United for a Responsible Budget, an alliance of over 40 organizations that works to reduce prison spending, issued the following recommendations in response to *The Future of California Corrections*:

- Ensure that CDCR is held responsible for reaching the 137.5 percent reduction benchmark.

- Cancel all of the remaining prison and jail expansion funding, not just the \$4.1 billion. Proposed in the plan.

- Reject the \$810 million requested by CDCR to expand prisons.

- Stop the conversion of Valley State Prison for Women to a men's prison and close it permanently.

- Stop the conversion of the Folsom Transitional Treatment Facility to a woman's facility.

- Ensure that every person in prison has access to programming.

- Implement geriatric parole and expand compassionate release.

- Expand the Alternative Custody program to include women who have prior convictions classified as serious or violent, and remove its barriers to include male prisoners and the elderly.

CURB supports the plan to stop out-of-state transfers and the downgrading of prisoners' classification levels.

*—Richard Lindsey contributed to this story*

## Right to Assistance in Plea Deals

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court says criminal defendants have a right to effective legal assistance during plea negotiations, and a lawyer must inform the client of any favorable deals the prosecution offers.

A defendant who rejects a plea bargain based on incorrect legal advice by a lawyer has been denied the right to effective assistance of counsel, the court ruled.

The court issued two decisions (*Missouri v. Frye* and

*Lafler v. Cooper*) where ineffective assistance of counsel caused rejection of a plea offer and led to conviction with a greater punishment.

In *Frye*, defense counsel failed to inform the defendant of the plea offer. After the offer expired, the defendant still plead guilty but received a more severe sentence.

In *Cooper*, the attorney communicated the plea offer to the defendant but gave him incorrect legal advice that resulted in rejection of the plea. The defendant went to trial and

was found guilty. He received a punishment that was greater than the one offered through the plea.

A defendant must show that had he not received ineffective legal advice, there is a reasonable probability that he would have accepted the plea; the court would have accepted its terms; and the conviction or sentence or both would have been less severe.

The Supreme Court said that the remedy in circumstances like these is to order the state to re-offer the plea agreement.

## Lavelt Duverne Dies in His Cell

*Continued from Page 1*

them in The Hole isn't conducive to their mental health," Cox said. "God gave me strength, but another man might not be strong enough."

Every prisoner housed in North Block was interviewed by mental health services.

In 2011, Duverne, 39, a native of Haiti, suffered a heart attack while waiting to attend a class at Prison University Project (PUP). Afterwards, San Quentin medical placed him on several medi-

cations for his heart condition. "Duverne complained to me that the pills were interfering with his sleep," Cox said. "When he did sleep, it was a minimum of three hours."

Kara Urion, PUP program assistant, said all of Duverne's teachers contacted her, distraught at hearing the news. They commented about Duverne's engaging and intelligent conversation.

"My final prayer would be to contact his mom and let her

know that he was a wonderful person," said Cox. "But I saw no signs or symptoms," Cox said. "It just happened spontaneously."

"I really felt honored to hear him teach our research class about the importance of universal health care," said Juan Haines. "I find it somewhat ironic that his last public words would be on a subject like that. He was also a member of the San Quentin Journalism Guild, and a concerned citizen of Haiti."

# Death Penalty in Limbo



Official Photo

Newly constructed S.Q. death chamber sits idle

By San Quentin News Staff  
and  
San Quentin Journalism  
Guild

California is taking steps to resume executions while voters are deciding whether to abolish capital punishment in November.

Gov. Jerry Brown ordered prison officials to clear hurdles allowing the single-drug execution option after courts banned the three-drug combination that critics claimed caused unnecessary pain.

Meanwhile, the man who spearheaded the expansion of capital punishment in California is now backing a new initiative to repeal it. "When I wrote (the expansion law), I believed in capital punishment," Donald Heller said in a *Los Angeles Times* interview.

Heller is the author of the 1978 initiative that broadened the umbrella of crimes eligible for the death penalty.

Brown's directive was part of a notice of appeal filed by Attorney General Kamala D. Harris seeking to activate capital punishment. "My administration is working to ensure that California's laws on capital punishment are upheld," Brown's office responded when asked about the directive.

California's capital punishment procedure has come under increased scrutiny. Critics cite a system marred by lengthy appeals, leaving those convicted to death to spend decades on San

Quentin's Death Row, costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars. However, Heller's change of heart seems rooted more in morality than it does the cost.

He told the LA Times that he "started noticing the toll it took on judges pronouncing a sentence of death," and that there have been aggressive prosecutions of defendants by prosecutors seeking death. "It became, with some, a game," he said.

If approved by voters in November, the 700-plus men and women condemned to die would have their sentences converted to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

On another front, the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation filed a petition with the State Court of Appeal attempting to resume executions. The conservative law and order foundation noted nearly two dozen executions have been conducted in three other states using a single-drug.

In addition, Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley filed court papers, attempting to get an order for the execution of Mitchell Carleton Sims, 52, and Tiequon Aundray Cox, 46 by a single-drug method.

The latest report on the effectiveness of the death penalty found that its deterrent factor is unknown, because of the lack of comprehensive data collection and the failure to ask the right questions to those who commit murder.

The report, funded by The Research Counsel of the National

Academies, *Deterrence and the Death Penalty*. It concluded that in the 30 years of studying capital punishment and its potential effects on homicide rates, all of the studies contain the same flaws.

All previous studies fail to include the effects of other forms of punishment—such as life in prison without possibility of parole, the report said. They do not consider whether potential murderers think about the possibility of spending their lives in prison or ending up on Death Row before they commit their crimes. The report pointed out, it is difficult to determine the death penalty's deterrent factor in crimes committed in the heat of passion, or under a diminished capacity.

"We recognize this conclusion will be controversial to some, but nobody is well-served by unfounded claims about the death penalty," said Daniel Nagin, chairman of the report.

The report concludes that research has consistently failed to determine whether capital punishment decreases, increases or has no effect on homicide rates.

The report says researchers may find answers to the deterrence of the death penalty by asking:

Whether the legal status of the death penalty affects homicide rates

If the intensity of use of the death penalty affects homicide rates

How executions affect homicide rates in the short run.

The report issued the following recommendations:

Collecting data required for a complete consideration of capital and non-capital punishment for murder

Conducting studies on how potential murderers perceive capital punishment as a penalty for murder

Use methods that make credible assumptions about the effect of capital punishment.

— Aly Tamboura, Juan Haines, and Charles David Henry contributed to this story.

## EDUCATION CORNER

# Distance Learning Scaled Back for Summer Semester

By Tom Bolema  
Literacy Coordinator

The college correspondence classes offered at San Quentin will be limited this summer. The shortfall of classes is because Lassen and Palo Verde colleges are closed until the fall semester, Coastline will not have a summer session, and Prison University Project's enrollment is capped until fall.

These colleges are a part of the Distance Learning program that provides correspondence courses to prisoners in coordination with the colleges' teaching staff.

Access to higher education is becoming increasingly competitive. A serious student needs practical short- and long-term plans and goals, a thorough knowledge of available services, and a network of staff and resident scholar/collaborators to successfully navigate the prison college culture.

The privately operated Prison University Project offers prisoners an Associate of Arts degree. Prisoners can receive a Bachelor of Arts degree by completing

correspondence courses offered by Ohio University. San Quentin educators are canvassing local Bay Area universities for broader access to B.A. programs.

Those seeking to earn higher education milestones with release dates prior to April 2013 must be currently enrolled, or have completed their courses by December 2012, in order to process and enjoy a reduced sentence.

College classes are typically worth three credit hours each, and successful completion of a class results in a three-week sentence reduction.

Enrollment in the San Quentin Volunteer Education Program offers students college preparatory classroom time for upcoming semesters. VEP coordinators serve as liaisons to the colleges.

Students and potential students may consult with the Distance Learning or VEP coordinators regarding their higher education goals for the remainder of the year. Contact the San Quentin VEP coordinators at the main Education Building, classroom one.

## JUNE EVENTS

June 10- S.Q. Peace Walk (Lower Yard) 8-2

June 15- Hamlet (Protestant Chapel) 11:30-2:30

June 29- Golden Gate Seminary Graduation (Protestant Chapel)

June 30- Hitland concert with free hot dogs (Lower Yard)

June 30- Mindfulness Meditation/Yoga day long training (Gym) 8-3:30

# Minister Ordinations Held in The Garden Chapel

By Clarence Bailey  
Journalism Guild Writer

Denominational leaders from across America attended the recent ordination of five San Quentin prisoners as ministers in the American Evangelical Christian Churches.

The two-hour rite held in the Garden Chapel brought the AECC's board of trustees from across the United States. Unlike most prisoner ordinations, which are often performed by mail, AECC ordinations must have the leaders present.

"It was emotional and confirming when the elders of AECC prayed for me and laid hands," said Michael D. Adams, a seven-year resident of San Quentin who was ordained. "When I was arrested, I asked God how I was to live and face this sentence, this challenge. He said I could only do it in his son Jesus."

Denomination president Charles Walsielewski, Sr., from New York says the group has been involved with San Quentin for seven years. The AECC had received a

letter from Robert Lott, a resident of San Quentin who wanted to be licensed, and then-Chaplain Curry asked the organization if they could ordain the prisoner. "Any person called of God has the right to be ordained."

Also ordained were Garrett Martin, Eddie Lee Johnson II, Derrick Holloway, and Robert Butler.

Holloway has spent 15 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Upon his release, he plans to be in ministry. "This is my calling in

prison or on the street, wherever God wants me to go," he said.

Johnson compared being a Christian to a sporting event. "Do it in such a way that you won't be disqualified. Remember, if you do compete, you will not receive the crown unless you compete according to the rules."

"I've been in prison for 18 years and nine of it has been here," said Butler. "It is an honor or being ordained and a privilege because the Pastor-Teacher gift can be revoked. I believe God has called me to raise a

church of strong, committed Christian men and women."

Martin, an eight-year resident of San Quentin, said for 14 years he has been working toward this goal. "It's a fulfillment for me, a genesis but also an end, God has been gracious to me."

Denominational leaders Dr. Douglas Schlumber from California, Dr. Lowell Ford from Ohio, Dr. Michael Ward Sr. from Indiana, and Dr. Gordon Elliot from Minnesota also attended the event.

— Julian Glenn Padgett assisted with this article.

# ANNUAL DAY OF PEACE

## Prisoners, Staff and Community Stand Against Violence in Prison

By Christopher Christensen  
Journalism Guild Writer

Six years ago, several inmates frustrated by the violent nature of prison had a simple idea: All inmates should come together on the yard and observe a day of peace.

"We needed to do something to curb and stem the senseless and idiotic violence," said Richard Vincent Poma, who was part of the multi-racial committee that organized the event.

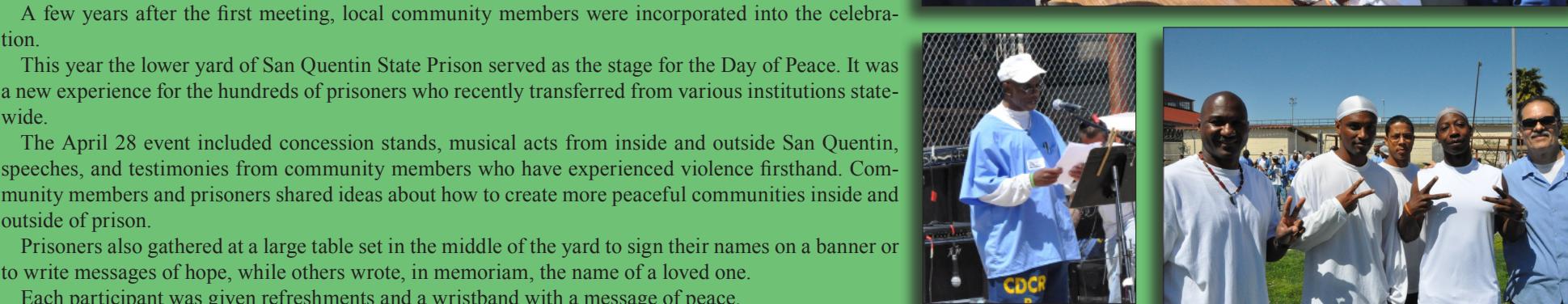
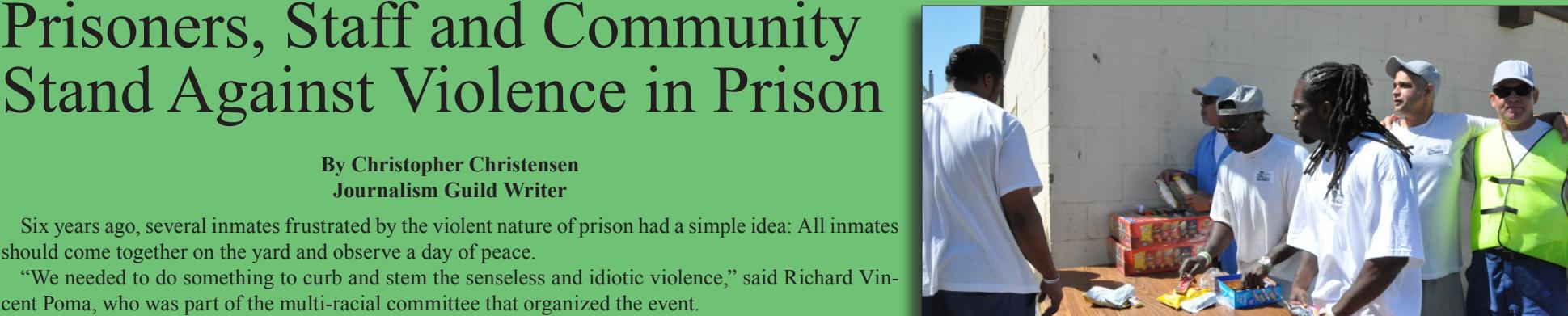
A few years after the first meeting, local community members were incorporated into the celebration.

This year the lower yard of San Quentin State Prison served as the stage for the Day of Peace. It was a new experience for the hundreds of prisoners who recently transferred from various institutions statewide.

The April 28 event included concession stands, musical acts from inside and outside San Quentin, speeches, and testimonies from community members who have experienced violence firsthand. Community members and prisoners shared ideas about how to create more peaceful communities inside and outside of prison.

Prisoners also gathered at a large table set in the middle of the yard to sign their names on a banner or to write messages of hope, while others wrote, in memoriam, the name of a loved one.

Each participant was given refreshments and a wristband with a message of peace.



*Participants of the Day of Peace gave the San Quentin News their thoughts on the event. Here are what they had to say:*

"These types of events generate unity and prepare us to re-enter society. I couldn't see this happening at Soledad because of the staff." - S. Wells

"The day of peace allows the public to hear about men acting as they should in the community." - Luke Fredricks, volunteer

"At Solano, we were looking for stuff like this. We would like to get rid of the old ways and get with the new ways. We were open to rehab, but we had to get over the administration." - "Just Us"

"I've been in prison 17 years, 11 at San Quentin. It's a privilege to take advantage of all the programs here. There's a lot of respect between inmates, the staff, and community members." - Michael Ware

"A lot of people seem hungry to show some type of solidarity." - Safa, bass player for Rupa and the April Fishes

"They wouldn't even let us celebrate Juneteenth at Soledad. I didn't even know there was such an event as day of peace. I support this because if you got peaceful spirits, nothing else gonna bother you." - Kevin Thomas

"The administration at San Quentin focuses on rehabilitation, and getting us ready for release to society. Even though there are no jobs here, there's plenty to do with all the programs." - Ken Polk

"The new people I saw were excited because all races are getting along. People aren't stand-offish at San Quentin. We like to interact with each other." - Kevin Carr

"I think the public misses out on what it's really like in here. When I tell my neighbors that I'm going to work inside of San Quentin, they can't imagine what I see in the men I work with everyday." - Kara Urion, Prison University Project

"San Quentin is the flagship of CDCR as far as programs to help us adjust back to society. This kind of atmosphere is what the public should see, because they have a misconception about the people under the prison system." - Nicky Burns

"As a prisoner volunteer I do it for its own sake. I want to be involved in more volunteering. It's good for the soul, and I believe that everyone should be a volunteer." - Ruben Ramirez

"There weren't any programs like this at Solano. This is a place of unity. The public is unaware of the brothers here who are truly rehabilitated. It would be a shame to waste them. God Bless us all." - Brother Jackson

"This is a special day, which we hope will always be. I get to meet Jesus when I come into San Quentin." - Jim Ryan, volunteer

"I feel it's a good thing for us. We all need some peace in our lives." - TY

"It's good to see everybody hanging out and for the first time it's good to see everybody in white, which represents peace. The atmosphere in San Quentin is peace today." - Ronald Lew

"I especially loved the band playing the R&B music. They were really good. The way the prisoners interacted showed a lot of respect for each other." - Correctional Officer McClean

"In 2006 there was a riot on the San Quentin yard. In 2007 we came together and had our first peace event to bring awareness and show that peace can work." - Stephen Pascascio.

"I feel that today people put their racial stuff to the side. I wonder if prisoners can do this on the streets." - Ke Lam

"I am contributing to the community and raising awareness to others to be positive role models." - Jorge Heredia

"This is an event I will always remember. I look forward to working to make this event bigger next year, and when I go home I will always remember this and carry the message of peace. I like this, all of us coming together." - Robert Curtis

"For the 34 plus years that I've been locked up I've seen a lot of violence, and I wonder why so many had to lose their lives or be hurt. This has affected not only us inside, but also our families. This event really shows that we can come together and mend our differences to continue this peace. This should be in every prison." - Nick Garcia

"This Day of Peace should be like any other day, not only in prison but in society as well. Peace should not be contained or restricted. It should be passed down from generation to generation. If we don't leave anything else behind for our children to remember, we should at least teach them about peace." - "Catfish"

"Peace brings freedom, freedom brings love." - Randy "Pup" Carey



Photos By Tom Bolema and Earnest Woods

## SPORTS

# Warriors Lose Season Opener

By Gary "Malachi" Scott  
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team's season opener against the outside basketball team, called The Chosen was a heartbreak 109-89 loss.

Down by seven going into the fourth quarter, the Warriors tried to make a comeback as Richard "Mujahid" Munns hit a baseline jumper, cutting their deficit down to two at 83-81.

Both teams traded baskets until Amir Tyson of The Chosen took over the game. He scored on a driving layup going to his right, and made two free throws, increasing the lead to 95-87.

The Warriors tried to make a final push as Jhavonte Carr drove to the basket strong and laid the basketball softly off the board, but The Chosen never looked back after that.

Tyson scored 12 fourth-quarter points, which was a huge reason for the Chosen's victory.

Going into the third quarter, Tyson scored on back-to-back lay-ups, increasing the lead to 55-43.

Then M. Cosby made important plays for the Warriors, making an assist to Ishmael Auxila-PierreLouis, then returning for a midrange jumper. Then P. Walker of the Warriors hustled and scored on a tip-in off a missed shot and Carr knocked down a three-pointer, decreasing the Warriors deficit to 59-56. However, the Warriors ended the third quarter down 70-63.

Amir Tyson finished with a game-high 33 points.

When asked after the game about their approach to the game, Tyson said, "Our objective was to fellowship with our team as well as fellowship with the Warriors. And of course, win."

Tyson played basketball for a year at San Jose City College.

Cosby commented, "It was a great way to tip-off a season. It was exciting for all of the Warriors. Even though we lost, we grew as a team overnight."

Cosby finished as the leading scorer for the Warriors with 19 points. He also had 12 rebounds.

# Spires Grabs the Crown As H-Unit's Fastest Man



Photo by Eric Phillips

## Davante Spires Blazes to Victory

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

The first "Run Like You Stole Something" 100-yard dash on the H-Unit yard was a hit, evoking cheers and jeers from both prisoners and staff.

Billed as the fastest man on the yard contest, Davante Spires, a young and swift runner, won the event after running four heats in which he took on all challengers.

In the first race, Spires, 18, lined up against Building 4's Cleo Franks, who towered over him by at least a foot. Off the line, the runners were even in step. However, after the first 10 paces, Franks began losing his poise and took a tumble head first onto the black top.

The H-Unit sergeant stopped the event and had Franks go to medical, where he was checked for injuries. A

few minutes later, he returned with a few minor scrapes and scratches, and the races resumed.

In quick succession, Spires ran two more heats, blazing down the track in his prison-issued tennis shoes, beating his opponents with his lightning speed.

In what was scheduled to be the final heat of the April 22 event, Spires lined up alongside of Wilbert Bridges. As the crowd lowered their chatter, the two racers flew down the asphalt with Spires easily crossing the finish line for the victory.

Taunted by a prisoner who was watching the races through the chain link fence of the ranch, Spires agreed to his challenge of one more race.

The challenger, Leon Powell, boasted that he was indeed the fastest man on the yard, claiming he was "the Usain Bolt" of the institution.

Spires, still trying to gain his breath from the previous race, lined up again for the challenge race. In his toughest test of the day, Spires beat Powell by a little less than half a second, to the applause of the entire prison yard.

# Learning Boxing's Skills from a Long-Time Coach

An unfortunate experience led Achilles Williams to start boxing as a youth. "In 1962 some people took my shoes in Washington D.C. My sister took me to the gym, and she said we can't have that," he said. His sister introduced him to a boxing trainer named "Football." He became a father figure to Williams in an environment where seven out of 10 people knew how to box. From that experience, Williams became one of the Golden Gloves' highest-level amateurs.

Williams does not train just anyone, he said. He does not train bullies or people that like to boast. He offers training to men who are humble and respectful to others.

### TRAINING

"The first thing I push my students to do is get in shape physically. They have to start running, start doing sit-ups, and work on footwork and hand foot coordination" he said.

He emphasized that boxing can be a positive outlet for at-risk youth. "I think boxing is one way to get them off the streets and bring them to a strong family structure. It can keep them out of trouble and be a potential career for them," he said.

Antoine Brown, a trainee of Williams, explains the fundamentals of boxing. He said, "First and foremost it teaches one discipline, and it forces you to focus on different part



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

## Achilles Williams on the lower yard

of your body that you usually don't focus on like your footwork, which is the basics of boxing. Without your feet being firmly placed up under you and knowing how to move properly on them then you become useless."

Consistency is important when it comes to training, he

said. "Training is like anything else. If you don't make it repetitive then nothing of the boxing aspects that you learn becomes second nature to you. Everything would have been in vain," said Brown.

Perry "Spike" Simpson, one of the men Williams trained, explains why he trains.

"First and foremost I train to stay healthy; second it works towards my development of skills to be efficient as possible."

### COPING WITH PRISON

He says training helps him cope with his incarceration. "Training helps to relieve a little stress," said Simpson. "Once you harness your aggression, you move to a more calm level of open mindedness. To get there you have to relieve negative stress. Breathing and balance is important. You cannot live to your full potential if your mind is not at peace."

### POSITIVE RESULTS

He also says that he will use his training honorably. "Boxing is a sport. I have found that the more I get better at my craft

the calmer I become. I've been bestowed the responsibility to choose to do good with the skills I've learned from the man that trained me. He said he would never train a bully. I will take that with me and pass it down to

**"Once you harness your aggression, you move to a more calm level of open-mindedness"**

people. If the teacher is positive, the student will be positive and do positive things. My intent is to be positive and pass it on to the kids.

—Gary Scott



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

## Williams demonstrating his boxing skills

# Kings Edge Sports Ministry in Overtime

By Gary Scott  
Sport Editor

The San Quentin Kings basketball team for 40 and older men defeated the outside basketball team called the Sports Ministry in their season opener 83-82 in overtime, which was in a nail-biter.

The Sports Ministry was trailing by 18 points at halftime. However, they made an unbelievable comeback, tying the game in the closing seconds of the contest with an assist from Andrew Strong to Danny Sullivan, sending the game into overtime.

***"It's a great experience bringing joy to peoples lives and having fun..."***

In overtime, Paul Robinson made an assist to Sean Pierce and then Pierce returned to make two foul shots, giving the Kings an 80-76 lead.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

S.Q. Kings 2012 Basket Ball Team

The Sports Ministry came back as Strong made a layup and Sullivan returned to knock down a three-pointer off a screen, giving the visitors their first lead at 81-80.

Then both teams' only points came off free throws as Strong

made one free throw to tie the game at 82-82

In the closing seconds, Robinson sank a clutch foul shot for the game winner.

Going into the second half, Sullivan contributed to their comeback as he hit a jumper

and a three-pointer. He later drove for a layup and hit a three-pointer, cutting into the deficit to 46-40.

After Robinson's layup, Kurt Thomas hit a baseline jumper to increase the Kings' lead to 50-40. The Kings pulled away as

## Athletes Share Personal Hardships With Men of S.Q.

Even successful athletes of the University of California Berkeley Bears football team had hardships during their childhoods.

During their March visit with SQUIRES (San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies), they shared the hardships they faced growing up, and how they overcame those challenges to become successful college athletes. SQUIRES works with local youth to encourage family relationships and deter youth crime.

Freshman defensive tackle Viliami Moala said that he made many bad decisions growing up in Sacramento. He

points to God for his positive redirection. He started going to church to turn his life around.

"Playing football allowed me to stay off the streets," said Moala. He credits his two little brothers with motivating him to try hard in high school.

Sophomore outside linebacker Chris McCain of North Carolina overcame a rough childhood. "My parents always have been there, though they had it hard. My brother went in and out of jail." He explained how he overcame doubts and criticism of pass coaches. "There were coaches who told me that I was not going to make it past the 10th grade. Throughout

my career, I had coaches that doubted me and told recruiters [for college teams] that I was a bad kid. The only people that supported me were my parents."

Freshman running back Daniel Lasco of Houston spoke about his difficult childhood. "I had difficulties growing up. I did not know my dad until I was 15. My mom got into heavy drugs. We had to live on government checks, child support, *et cetera*," he said.

"I had to be the man of the house early on. It made me mature faster. My mom was my motivation to push harder. She was definitely my inspiration," Lasco said.

Sophomore safety Avery Walls disclosed how he was able to escape negative influences. "I found God and just changed my whole life and understanding," he said. "My mom put in a lot of time to put me in the right areas and communities to succeed."

Visiting the SQUIRES program gave him useful information and was "a great opportunity to see what goes on here. It was a chance to see whether you want this life or a better life," Walls said.

Freshman corner back Stefan McClure of Southern California described his hardships growing up. "My parents were divorced, and it was hard go-

ing between houses and seeing my parents every day," he said. "Both of my parents pushed me as well as my Vista High School coaches, Williams and Ware."

Moala encouraged the prisoners to keep track of the Bears season, adding, "Tell them we're going to try to represent [them] by putting San Quentin on our towels."

A group of kids were also visiting the prisoners that day. Cal quarterback Zach Maynard promised to invite youngsters to a Bears game, should they ask. Also visiting were Bears coaches, including Kevin Parker who brought his sons along.

—By Gary Scott

## Students Learn the Wrenching Story of Change in Africa

Despite a devastating slave trade and European colonial domination, Africa today is able to adapt, change and redefine its people and cultures, two Prison University Project history teachers told a class of San Quentin Prison students.

Nathaniel Moore described pre-colonial Africa as a continent of great nations and kingdoms.

"There were numerous prosperous kingdoms and civilizations throughout the continent, including the Egyptian, Zulu, Yoruba, Mali, Ethiopian and Nubian empires," he said. "These empires maintained complex central governments, trading networks and robust societies with many achievements and innovations."

The arrival of Europeans dramatically changed the develop-

ment of the African continent, he said. "The transatlantic slave trade disrupted many societies throughout Africa by depriving societies of their most promising young people and stunting technological innovation," Moore added.

After the slave trade, the imperial European powers divided Africa up during the Berlin Conference of 1884 and promised not to interfere with each other as they colonized the continent. "Colonialism brought uncountable changes to African communities, everything from gender roles to language to land ownership to resource control," said Moore.

"African communities resisted their colonial rulers in a variety of ways, but it wasn't until the 1960s and 1970s that most African nations were able to achieve

independence. After independence, African nations have faced a number of challenges in political, economic, and social areas. However, the continent continues to possess diverse, dynamic, and vibrant culture and communities," he added.

Anne Henry, who co-teaches the class with Moore, pointed out the ways in which past colonialism in Africa still affects Africans today. "Colonialism has had a large impact on the continent, and those impacts can be seen from the statues commemorating European officers who colonized African lands and from the European languages spoken all over the continent," she said.

"Many countries' governments and economic systems are still organized accordingly to colonial structures. Roads still

connect resource-rich areas to the coast. Urban areas have distinctly more infrastructure than rural areas.

"Most newspapers, TV shows, and other media are in European languages. Most Africans will speak at least one European language," Henry said.

"Travelers would see the colonial influence in the products you would buy at a store, for example. Grocery stores are full of all sorts of products from England, France, Portugal, *et cetera*. However, on a day-to-day basis, especially in urban areas, you will see Africans from all over the continent wearing name brand clothing similar to what we might see anywhere in the United States or Europe," said Moore.

Henry concluded by emphasizing how Africans are gradually recovering from the colonialism. "Despite the impacts that colonialism still holds in the continent, the people of Africa have been able to adapt and change to the positive or negative influences that have come their way. Even though colonialism still impacts Africans, African societies continue to define themselves."

Antoine Brown, one of the students of the class, said, "I learned a lot about Africa that I did not know before due to the fact that schools don't teach it in history class. Knowing about what I know now gives me a different perspective about the continent and what Africans went through."

—By Gary Scott

# Prisoners Told Education Is the Key to Success

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Education has the power to change a prisoner's attitude about himself and paves the way for a fruitful life in society, says a San Quentin volunteer.

The key to success is staying focused and motivated, said Xan Sarah Chacko, a native of India who is working on a Ph.D. degree in cultural studies at the University of California at Davis.

She is a volunteer with the Prison University Project, which offers San Quentin prisoners classes in the humanities, social sciences, math and science, leading to an Associate of Arts degree.

Chacko came to the United States in 2001 as an undergraduate student at Wellesley College in Boston, majoring in physics and women studies. After re-

turning from India, she came back to the United States in 2011 to attend UC-Davis.

She said PUP "is a fantastic opportunity for the students and volunteers. I feel fortunate to participate."

The PUP mission is "to provide excellent higher education to San Quentin prisoners and to stimulate public awareness and meaningful dialogue about higher education and criminal justice in California and across the United States."

Educational programs such as PUP have been shown to have a considerable effect on recidivism rates. According to a study by the US Department of Education, the re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration recidivism rates were lower for education participants than non-participants, and in every category the differences were statistically significant."

# Court to Rule on Juvenile LWOP

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

The US Supreme Court is mulling over the constitutionality of sentencing a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). In March, the Court heard arguments in two separate cases in which 14-year old offenders were sentenced to LWOP. They are expected to rule on the cases, *Miller v Alabama* and *Jackson v Hobbs*, this summer.

The United States is the only country in the world that sentences juvenile murderers to LWOP, according to Amnesty International. Today there are over 2,300 juveniles serving LWOP sentences in the United States.

"It is an absolute tragedy when a person's life is taken by another human being," said Bo-rey Ai, who was sentenced to a life term with the possibility of parole for a second-degree murder he committed at age 14. "But condemning children to life in prison is not the only solution."

Ai is vice chairman of Kid CAT, a group at San Quentin whose goals include educating incarcerated men and mentoring juveniles.

Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer representing the 14-year-olds, argued that juveniles have deficits in understanding and judgment, rendering them less culpable for their actions and thus less deserving of harsh punishments. Further, because the character of juveniles is not fully formed, they should have a chance at parole after they mature and rehabilitate.

Stevenson's argument was bolstered by briefs submitted by the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association which contended juveniles are particularly vulnerable and lack control over their environment.

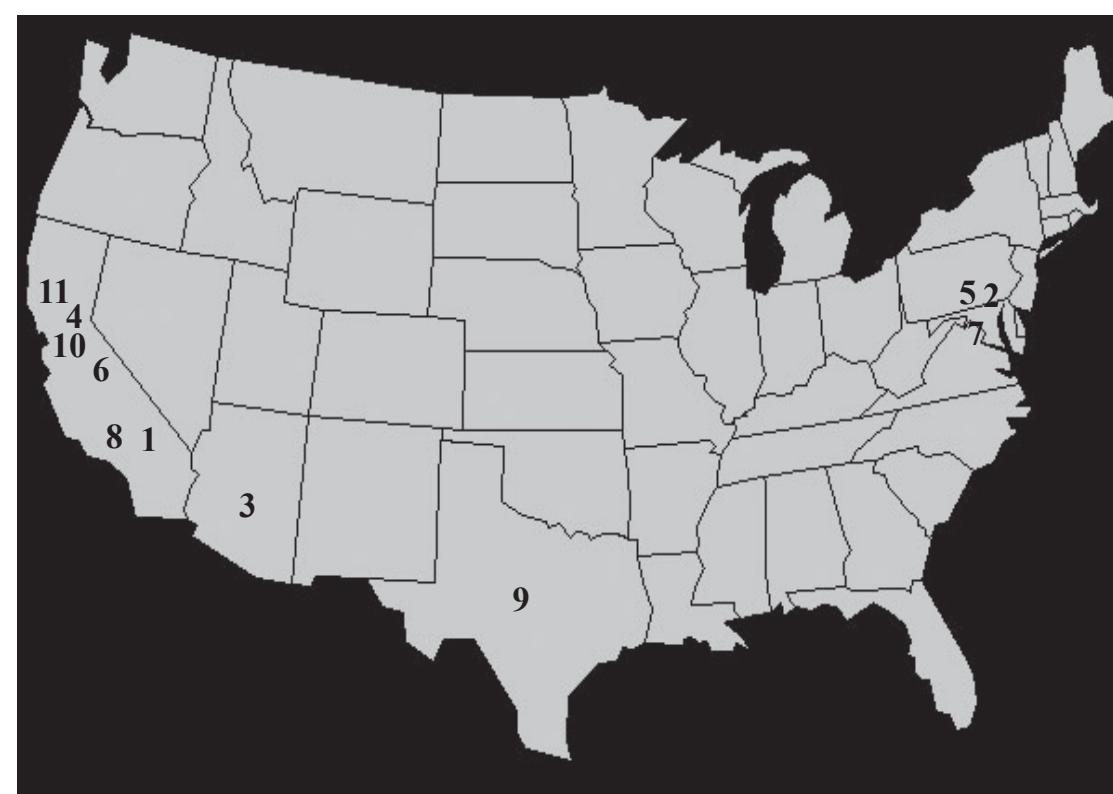
Amnesty International filed an amicus brief asserting that international standards on punishment of juveniles must shape the court's view on contemporary standards of de-

cency in determining whether a sentence is cruel and unusual.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child bars sentencing juveniles to LWOP, an agreement that has been ratified by every country except Somalia and the United States. The U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled that it was unconstitutional to sentence juveniles to death or to LWOP for a non-homicide crime.

Michael Nelson, chairman of Kid CAT, thinks any adult sentence is wrong for a juvenile. "Juveniles who commit crimes, including murder, are as guilty in inflicting pain and suffering on their victims as an adult who commits the same crime," said Michael Nelson, who was sentenced to a life term with the possibility of parole for a first-degree murder he committed at age 15. "However, they should not be tried as adults or sentenced according to laws that apply to adults, because that further devalues human life and ignores the profound redemptive capacity of young offenders."

## News Briefs



**1. RIVERSIDE**—The non-profit Prison Law Office, which successfully sued the state over inadequate prison medical care, says it's worried that the same problem is cropping up in county jails. Referring to realignment of prisoners from state to county lockups, PLO Director Don Specter told the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "It's not that these jails were doing well before; it's just worse with realignment. In some ways, counties are worse than [state prisons]...and certainly the harm on prisoners who stay there longer is going to be greater."

**2. WASHINGTON, D.C.**—

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission voted to change its recommendations to employers on how to assess job applicants' criminal histories.

The new guidelines state that employers cannot deny an applicant based on his or her criminal history unless it is "job-related and consistent with business necessity."

McClatchy Newspapers reported about 65 million Americans have some type of criminal record, which research has found cuts in half chances for finding employment.

**3. ARIZONA**—A man convicted of killing a college student for \$200 was executed April 25.

"I regret nothing," said Thomas Arnold Kemp, 63, with his final words.

**4. SACRAMENTO**—The

CDCR population has reached the federal court benchmark of 155 percent of design capacity two months early, according to population reports. The population of in-state adult prisons was 123,287, or 154.5 percent of design capacity, as of April 25, 2012. The federal court set the benchmark for June 27, 2012.

Charles Colson, special counsel to President Richard Nixon who went to prison for his role in a Watergate-related case and became a Christian evangelical, died April 21. He was 80. Colson created the Prison Fellowship Ministries in 1976 to minister to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. It provided work-release programs, marriage seminars and classes to help former prisoners. An international offshoot established chapters around the world. He wrote more than 20 books, including "Born Again: What Really Happened to the White House Hatchet Man." That book was the basis of a movie. The Associated Press reported royalties from all his books went to

his ministry programs, as did the \$1 million Templeton Prize, which he won in 1993.

**6. SACRAMENTO**—Sup-

porters of a proposition that will allow a court to review some of California's three-strike sentences have apparently submitted enough signatures to qualify for the ballot in November. Over 830,000 signatures of registered voters were turned into the Secretary of State's office with 504,760 needed to qualify for the ballot.

**7. WASHINGTON, D.C.**—

As the U.S. Congress continues to cut discretionary spending, state and local juvenile justice programs will most likely take significant cuts, The Crime Report says. In fiscal year 2010, juvenile justice funding was \$424

million. The proposed amount for this fiscal year is \$209 million, wrote Ted Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists.

**8. PASADENA**—A new trial

has been granted to Frank O'Connell, who spent 27 years behind bars for a murder he insists he didn't commit. A Superior Court judge tossed out the conviction after ruling detectives did not disclose information indicating another person committed the crime. In addition, one of the witnesses to the murder said that he never got a good look at the killer and felt pressure to make a positive identification in a lineup. O'Connell was released on \$75,000 bail, pending a prosecution decision on whether to hold a new trial.

**9. DALLAS**—Three men have been exonerated for a 1994 purse-snatching case at the request of Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins. Watkins said Darryl Washington, Marcus Lashun Smith and Shakara Robertson were convicted even though the victim could not identify them. Their conviction was based on faulty witness identifications and evidence prosecutors did not give to the defense attorneys, Watkins said. Washington received a 99-year sentence, while Smith and Robertson accepted plea deals and were sentenced to probation. Washington and Robertson remained imprisoned for other convictions. Smith is an ordained minister who has been free for years. The district attorney recently called for a review of Texas capital punishment after launching a Conviction Integrity Unit to investigate wrongful convictions. "We have a responsibility, and that's to seek justice," Watkins told the Los Angeles Times.

**10. SACRAMENTO**—Shir-

ley Ree Smith's conviction for shaking her baby grandson to death was commuted by Gov. Jerry Brown, who agreed with an appeals court decision saying that her second-degree murder conviction was a likely miscarriage of justice.

**11. SAN FRANCISCO**—A

man who spent 21 years in prison before his murder conviction was overturned is suing San Francisco and police for violating his civil rights. Maurice Caldwell's federal civil rights lawsuit claims police fabricated a 1990 drug-related murder charge against him based on an unreliable witness.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

Which of the following numbers is different from the others, and how?

100, 300, 400, 900, 81, 25, 3600



Congratulations to: Jeff Stoner, and Allen Webb for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Hal Martine, John Johnson, Robert Bacon, Mark Tedeschi, Kevin Alexander, Son Hong Nguyen, Peter Chhem, Timothy Long, Bernie Castro, Steven Lacerda, Brian Carnes, John Vernacchio, Chris Schuhmacher, Edwin Carevato, Jose Molina, Frank Valdivia, Marcus Lopes, Doug Dworak, David Westerfield, John Donaldson, Troy Ashmus, and Jeff DuMont for correctly answering the puzzle. Last months winners were drawn from a hat.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

## Snippets

Parent pigeons, both male and female, produce a substance called "pigeon milk" to feed their young hatchlings for the first seven days of their lives.

Employed by the Miller Brothers 1905 Wild West Show, William Pickett was the star attraction and the first Black American inducted to the National Rodeo Hall of Fame.

According to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, American currency is 75% cotton and 25% linen.

Coughing releases a blast of air which can travel at speeds up to 60 mph. A sneeze, on the other hand, can exceed 100 mph.

Entrepreneur and comedian Silvero Perez coined the term Chupacabra, describing a legendary bear-like creature that roams Latin America sucking the blood from livestock, especially goats.

## POETRY

### DIASPORA

By R. Calix

*In the Gulag by the Bay*

*Where a remnant still  
survives*

*Our colored souls in dis-  
tress*

*Where unfreedom songs  
arise*

*Where blues croon red  
And cold is hot*

*I sit and set*

*Not wanting nor waiting  
But churning away*

*Inside this exile.*

*Back in a 6x9 Cell*

By NIGEL HENRY

*I'm back ya'll, locked up in  
jail, sitting in a 6x9 cell.*

### Watching the mailman

*walk by, these two c/o's  
with their messed up*

*smile.*

*Listening to this BS all day  
and night, waiting for the  
shut down to call it a night.*

*To wake up to the same  
mess beginning of the  
next, sitting by your bars  
hoping you're next.*

*A kind word from the one  
you love, to have a smile  
instead of a frown, some-  
thing to do while you're  
locked down.*

*Trying to ease the messed  
up thoughts that's running  
around, these psycholo-  
gists are easy to fool, you  
tell them anything and  
they say you're cool.*



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



*A RELIABLE WIFE* (By Robert Goolrick) Shady pasts propel hidden agendas of mail-order bride and her husband.



*AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS IF  
YOU DO* (By Pete McWilliams) Lively tales and absurd examples of various victimless crimes.



*THE SILVER CHAIR* (By C. S. Lewis) Magic Lion helps King Caspian battle mind-controlling Underworld Queen and search for Prince Rilian in this #4 of the *Chronicles of Narnia*.



*THE RAINBOW* (By D. H. Lawrence) Screwed up love lives of three generations negate the flowery prose in this overrated classic.

### RATINGS:



Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of Thomas Winfrey

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Journalism Guild Writer

Puha is a Comanche word used by many tribes, including Paiute, Ute, Panamint, Shoshone, Mono Yokuts.

These tribes share a linguistic stock that goes back tens of thousands of years. Indians who can speak one of the languages can understand other tribal dialects, which are of Uto-Aztec stock.

The word refers to the power, energy, or supernatural force received from a helping spirit. Puha can also mean the doctoring power given by the spirit helper.

The helping spirit usually comes to a person in a series of dreams, granting the dreamer power. The supernatural force can also be attained through vision quests at a power spot.

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

3	2	7	1	9	6	8	5	4
4	6	5	7	2	8	3	1	9
9	1	8	3	5	4	6	7	2
2	8	3	9	4	1	7	6	5
5	4	6	8	3	7	9	2	1
7	9	1	5	6	2	4	3	8
8	7	2	4	1	3	5	9	6
1	3	9	6	8	5	2	4	7
6	5	4	2	7	9	1	8	3

7				9	6			
4	6			8	7	5		
3				5				
2				7		6		
	5					2		
	1			5		7		
				4				8
	9	8	7		1	3		
	6	3				2		

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The issue of innocent men in prison has gained attention recently as DNA evidence has proved that some convicted people were not guilty. Before DNA, there was little hope of justice for those prisoners.

"Asked on the Line" conducted informal random interviews with 42 men on the mainline and asked, "Do you believe that there are men serving time in prison for crimes they did not commit?"

If the answer was "No," the men were asked: "Did you read your Probation Report? Does it accurately describe you and the crime you committed?"

However, if the answer to the first question was "Yes," the men were asked: "Does it depend on the nature of the crime and do you have to know a man to believe in his innocence?"

Only three men or seven percent replied "No" — that there

were no men in prison serving time for crimes they did not commit. "If you are in prison, you did something to deserve being here," said Ed. "You know what you did." The other two asked to remain anonymous. However, the three men all said their Probation Reports did not accurately portray them and their crimes.

Thirty-nine men — 93 percent of men interviewed — answered "Yes" and said they believe there are innocent men in prison. However, of the 39, 46 percent said they have to get to know a man before they believe in his innocence.

"I have to get to know them, read their case, talk to them, listen to them," said Glenn. Com

mented Edward, "If a man says he's innocent, you have to get to know him first." For some, it depends on the crime. "If he's in here for something dirty, I don't know about that," said Jesus. "I don't have to know them, but it

does depend on the crime," said Armando.

The other 21 maintain they do not have to know a man to believe in his innocence and that their crime doesn't matter. "Every system makes mistakes" said Vinny. It has nothing to do with the nature of your crime, Bonaru said. "It has to do with how our judges stereotype people," he added. Kenyatta said, "It's not about me believing them; I don't try to determine who's innocent and who isn't." Alfonso maintains that he doesn't have to know a person to believe in his innocence. "I know there are some innocent men in prison—not many. But what I do know is that I am guilty."

Do outside people believe there are innocent men in prison? When three volunteers were asked, they all believed that there are innocent men behind bars. "I just know that the criminal justice system is corrupt," said Julie.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

# San Quentin News

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**BEHIND THE SCENES**  
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# Men Urged to Change by 'Being More of Who You Really Are'

## OPINION

By Thomas Tartar, MD  
Contributing Writer

"What I did is not who I am." It's a powerful statement for someone who has felt the pain of doing wrong. Reflecting on the disconnect between one's values and one's actions requires substantial courage and inner strength — qualities we all possess. When you choose to use life's experiences as your teacher, you learn the true nature of the world and your part in it.

### DIFFERENCES

We all come into this world with advantages and disadvantages. Broken homes, violence, alcoholism, drug addiction, bigotry and indigence are all too common. Circumstances that affect where we find ourselves and our attitudes about how we perceive our place in life vary a great deal. Some of us were born on second base and think we hit a double; others have two strikes against them before they step up to the plate.

Regardless of the surroundings that life provides for us, we all have feelings, needs and responsibilities. Those feelings and needs make us human and keep us connected to each other; responsibility, particularly to ourselves, ultimately defines who we are as human beings. There is not one among us who, at some time in his life, did not feel compassion for another, nor is there one who has not

felt anger and disappointment. Once we truly recognize that compassion as well as anger and disappointment are integral parts of being human, we can no longer separate these qualities from who we are anymore than we can separate a sunbeam from daylight.

**"Realize that for a moment you gave up the essence of who you are."**

It is imperative that we prevent ourselves from being separated from our compassionate nature and giving in to manipu

lization and violence. This is not a subject to be discussed lightly over coffee and placed in some philosophical cloud and dismissed, because the outcome of such a disconnect can be devastating — devastating to the point of long-term incarceration or death.

Prevention requires remaining anchored to those inner values, which are truly important to us, and communicating in ways that reflect that commitment.

### COMMUNICATION

Non-violent communication gives us a blueprint for self-expression, and permits us to remain compassionate human beings in the process. It helps prevent us from falling into the trap we set for ourselves and directs our energies into satisfying our true needs. It teaches you to use your feelings so that you may identify your

knowledge connects you to every other person on the planet in a way that demands compassion and consideration for all, including yourself. More importantly, once attained, you can then experience the true value of remorse, experience your life as a child of God and be unafraid of what life has in store for you.

— Dr. Thomas Tartar was a guest speaker for the Non-Violent Communication Group at San Quentin.

## Senator Changes Prisoner Fund Spending Plan

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

The California Legislature is considering the most effective use of \$68 million collected from state prisoners for their benefit.

At issue is Senate Bill 542, introduced by Sen. Curren Price, D-Los Angeles. The proposal deals with allocating Inmate Welfare Funds, which are collected by adding a tax to products prisoners are allowed to purchase, as well as taxing crafts they sell to the public.

State law requires that the funds benefit prisoners in state custody. The money has been piling up in a bank account overseen by the Department

of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Initially SB 542 sought to redirect a portion of the IWF to pay for mental health care for prisoners not in state custody. On a recent visit to San Quentin, Sen. Price heard objections to using the funds to pay for services currently paid for by the state.

Price's bill was subsequently amended to shed the language that would redirect funds to local governments for prisoners not in state custody. The changes shift its purpose to fund "educational programs, hobby and recreation programs, and reentry programs" for prisoners in state custody.

*See Welfare Fund on Page 4*

## Government Analyst Critical of Prison Plan

By San Quentin News Staff

The independent Legislative Analyst Office says California could meet its court-ordered inmate population cap and save more than a billion dollars during the next seven years. However, the LAO cautions that the state officials' recently released plan is more costly than necessary.

The LAO says the Legislature should consider much of the plan. However, the plan assumes the federal court will approve their request to increase the inmate population cap from 137.5 to 145 percent of design capacity. Prison officials should have a backup plan in case the court does not approve this request, according to the LAO.

The LAO offered six alternative plans — three if the federal court approves raising the population cap, and three if they do not — that could save between \$54 to \$159 million more than the state's plan. The alterna-

tive plans involve reducing or eliminating out-of-state contract beds, rejecting the renovation of the DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility to house adult offenders, cancelling the \$810 million in new lease revenue bond authority to construct additional low-security housing at three existing prisons, and closing the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco.

The LAO report concludes: "While the administration's blueprint merits careful consideration by the Legislature, we find that there are alternative packages that are available to the Legislature. Each alternative, including the CDCR blueprint, comes with significant trade-offs to consider. However, we find that the state could meet specified population cap targets at much lower ongoing General Fund costs in the future than proposed by the administration, potentially saving the state over a billion dollars over the next seven years."

**See Father's Day special,  
including quotes from prisoners  
and their children, on pages 6&7.**



Photo By Lt. W. Baxter

Gregory Smith Sr. visiting with his family during the 'Get on The Bus' event

## Buses Full of Joy Arrive For an Early Father's Day

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

The San Quentin Visiting Room was turned into a joyous, festive place with smiles, painted faces, and children hugging their dads, some for the first time, in celebration of Fathers Day.

"This is the first time I've seen my daughter since she was

a week old," said Troy Phillips, whose family lives in Bakersfield. His daughter, Troyanna, was too shy to say anything, but smiled and played with a board game. She had just turned 10.

"All the kids sang her happy birthday yesterday. This was a great birthday present for her," said Cathy Kalin, one of the community volunteers who co-

ordinated the event, sponsored by a group called Get on the Bus.

Each year around Mother's Day and Father's Day, hundreds of children and their caregivers board buses and travel from cities all over the state to unite with incarcerated parents. Get on the

*See Get on the Bus on Page 4*

## Blueprint for Prison Future A Boost for S.Q. Programs



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Prisoner building a cabinet in Vocational Sheet Metal

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

California's blueprint for the future of its prison system proposes significant changes to programming at San Quentin. The plan would add nine new vocational training programs that would teach nearly 300 inmates skills that could help them find jobs once released. Prisoners' housing would also be dramatically restructured.

If the plan is approved by the legislature and signed by the governor, it would be put in

place gradually, beginning July 1, 2012.

Under the proposal, the new vocational programs would be building maintenance, computer literacy, and electronics. Current programs are machine shop and sheet metal.

Carpentry, high-voltage electricity, masonry, plumbing, and small engine repair are proposed to be added the following fiscal year. Another unnamed program will be added in the future.

Vocational programs could affect California's high recidivism rate. One study shows that

for every dollar spent on prison vocational training, prison costs are reduced by \$13.01. The same report shows that even a small decrease in recidivism saves a significant amount of money for taxpayers.

San Quentin's housing would be restructured in the following manner:

- West Block would house 674 Level II inmates
- Fire House would house 15 Level I inmates
- The Adjustment Center would house 102 inmates
- Alpine would house 371 Level II inmates
- Badger would house 371 Reception inmates
- Carson would house 96 Death Row and 137 Administratively Segregated inmates
- Donner would house 146 Level II inmates and 144 Administratively Segregated inmates
- East Block and North Seg would house 588 Death Row inmates
- North Block would house 621 Level II inmates
- H-Unit would house 750 inmates

# Prison Not the Answer for Juvenile Offenders

*Editor's Note: The following story by San Quentin News sports editor Gary Scott was published in the June 5, 2012 edition of the New York Times. Scott was arrested at age 15 for second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life at age 17. He has served 14 1/2 years. He works with at-risk youth and is studying toward an associate of arts degree.*

Like many states, California allows youth offenders as young as 14 to be transferred from the juvenile system to adult courts. From there, most of the teenagers who are tried as adults and sentenced to life in adult institutions are placed in Level 4 maximum-security prisons that are extremely violent.

In a new report, "Restorative Justice: Its Time Has Come in Marin County," the grand jury acknowledged that the practice strikes some as "soft on crime."

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury is calling for broader use of "restorative justice," a law enforcement philosophy that emphasizes reconciliation over punitive retribution.

In a new report, "Restorative Justice: Its Time Has Come in Marin County," the grand jury acknowledged that the practice strikes some as "soft on crime."

But after studying its use elsewhere — in places such as New Zealand, Brazil, Vermont and major California cities — the grand jury said its expanded use in Marin could save the taxpayers money, reduce recidivism and ease the burden on courts, the county jail and Juvenile Hall.

"Expansion of restorative justice in Marin County — by schools, the adult and youth criminal justice systems, and neighborhoods and communities — must be undertaken," said the grand jury, a 19-member investigative watchdog panel empowered by the judiciary.

Under the restorative justice approach, offenders meet with community facilitators

If rehabilitation is the goal for teenagers who are tried and sentenced as adults, then prison is not the answer.

This happens even though courts have said that juveniles are different from adults and in some situations must be treated differently. For example, in 2005, the Supreme Court banned the death penalty for juvenile offenders because "people under 18 are immature, irresponsible, susceptible to peer-pressure and often capable of change." However, the justices have not yet applied this same logic when considering the sentencing and housing of juveniles in the adult system.

In my observation, the incarceration of young prisoners in adult prisons has an extremely destructive effect. Young prisoners

## OPINION



Gary Scott  
Official Photo

are more susceptible to negative influences than adults. Facing the reality of their lengthy sentence and potentially never going home makes them seek protection and try to fit in somewhere in their

new world. Because a juvenile's identity is still developing, he or she can potentially adopt negative behaviors that are the norm in a hostile prison environment. The fear of being victimized or assaulted produces a need for security, which leads many young prisoners to rely on gangs and weapons for survival. Young prisoners overwhelmed by feelings of helplessness and hopelessness cannot focus on changing their thinking and behavior, because they are focused on how to survive. Younger prisoners are also at a disadvantage because they are not as mature (mentally and physically) as older prisoners. The suicide and sexual abuse rates of younger prisoners are higher than those of the physically mature. How

can rehabilitation be possible in such a dangerous environment?

The only way to change the behavior of young prisoners is to provide them with the opportunity to gain insight into why they think and behave the way they do. If rehabilitation is the goal for teenagers who are tried and sentenced as adults, then prison is not the answer. There should be a different place for youth offenders. Prison is too violent, and the necessary programs that can contribute to young prisoners' rehabilitation are underfunded. Rehabilitation is more possible in an environment that is conducive to education, where young prisoners can gain insight into their behavior to produce a positive transformation.

## Marin County Grand Jury Focuses on Reconciliation

**By Gary Klien**  
**Marin Independent Journal**

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury is calling for broader use of "restorative justice," a law enforcement philosophy that emphasizes reconciliation over punitive retribution.

In a new report, "Restorative Justice: Its Time Has Come in Marin County," the grand jury acknowledged that the practice strikes some as "soft on crime."

But after studying its use elsewhere — in places such as New Zealand, Brazil, Vermont and major California cities — the grand jury said its expanded use in Marin could save the taxpayers money, reduce recidivism and ease the burden on courts, the county jail and Juvenile Hall.

"Expansion of restorative justice in Marin County — by schools, the adult and youth criminal justice systems, and neighborhoods and communities — must be undertaken," said the grand jury, a 19-member investigative watchdog panel empowered by the judiciary.

Under the restorative justice approach, offenders meet with community facilitators

and sometimes the victims, discuss the impact of their actions, and negotiate how to make appropriate amends.

The offender then has a chance to perform community service, make restitution or seek therapy for addiction or behavioral problems. If the offender meets the agreed-upon obligations, he or she can avoid prosecution.

Proponents assert that this approach provides satisfaction to the victim as well as to the community affected by the crime and prepares the offender for a crime-free future in ways the traditional punitive justice system does not," the grand jury said.

The report noted that some restorative justice programs have been instituted in Marin, with good results:

- Peer-to-peer "courts" and other initiatives at Del Mar Middle School in Tiburon, Davidson Middle School in San Rafael and the Novato Unified School District have reduced bullying and disruptive behavior, while keeping students in school rather than suspending or expelling them.

- The Marin County Youth Court, run by the YMCA with the backing of Marin Super-

ior Court, puts misdemeanor offenders before lawyers and jurors of their own peers. Offenders who succeed with community service or counseling requirements can avoid having a criminal record.

- The Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, for offenders 12 to 17 years old, provides mediation between juveniles and crime victims, and lets the offender make direct amends.

- Adult drug court, family violence court and other special court programs, which seek to reduce offenders' contact with the criminal justice system and keep families together.

But the grand jury said officials should do more. Among other recommendations, the report calls on the district attorney's office to cut back on resource-consuming misdemeanor prosecutions in favor of diversion or citation hearings; the Board of Supervisors to provide funding for restorative justice programs and training; all Marin school districts to introduce restorative practices; and the sheriff's department to initiate restorative justice programs at the county jail.

"Although the District Attorney's Office provides mediation services and citation hearings for various civil and criminal disputes, it and the Sheriff's Department appear to be significantly less supportive of expanded use of restorative justice techniques," the report said.

Undersheriff Mike Ridgway disagreed, saying the county jail offers preparation for high school equivalency exams, English language instruction, addiction treatment, safe sex education and support groups.

"The sheriff's office has long operated and supported programs within the Marin County Jail that attempt to address the reduction of prisoner recidivism and improve their chances for successful reintegration into the community," Ridgway said.

The grand jury ordered formal responses from the sheriff, the district attorney, the public defender, the county superintendent of education, the Board of Supervisors, the county education department and the local school districts. They have 60 to 90 days to respond.

Defense attorney Charles Dresow, who handles many

juvenile cases, said the grand jury "is absolutely right that the time for restorative justice has come to Marin." He said the practice works, but even if an offender fails, prosecutors are still free to file charges.

"The filing of a criminal case can be catastrophic to a young adult's job, education and future contribution to society," Dresow said. "There is no need to derail a young individual's future because they made a mistake in their youth."

Defense attorney Tracy Barrett said the grand jury was correct to counter the notion that restorative justice is "soft on crime."

"My experience is that there is actually far more accountability for defendants participating in those programs than there is for the defendant who is simply sentenced to jail time," she said. "Ask any drug court graduate whether the program was easy. I'm sure you would get an earful."

*—This copyrighted story is reprinted with the permission of the Marin Independent Journal.*

## Initiative Said to Seek Original Intent of 'Three Strikes'

**By Forrest Jones**  
**Journalism Guild Writer**

A Three Strikes initiative slated for the November ballot is designed to reflect the voters' original intent for the law, according to Geri Silva, the founder of Families to Amend California Three Strikes, a group that supports the initiative. She discussed the measure in May at the San Quentin Catholic Chapel.

Silva said the voters who originally passed the law were not aware they were sending petty offenders to prison for life. Under the existing Three

Strikes Law, a defendant could receive sentences of 25 years to life for almost any crime — even minor, nonviolent crimes such as shoplifting or simple drug possession — if he or she has two prior serious or violent felony convictions. People have been sentenced to life in prison for shoplifting a pair of socks or stealing bread, Silva said.

The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012 would amend the law so that only those with serious, sexual or violent third strike offenses, including using a firearm while commit-

ting an offense or possessing a large amount of controlled substances, will be behind bars for life. Defendants with prior convictions for any serious or violent felony punishable by life imprisonment, including child molestation, rape, and murder, will not be affected by the new initiative, even if their third strike was not serious or violent. A recent study by the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office estimates the ballot measure could save more than \$100 million per year related to prison and parole operations.

Silva said an estimated 3,000 inmates would be eligible to apply for a new sentence if the initiative passes.

She says the Reform Act has broad bipartisan support from law enforcement leaders like Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, a Republican, and San Francisco County DA George Gascon, a Democrat; and a range of academics, civil rights organizations, and retired judges and prosecutors. Also supporting the measure is Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Silva concluded by saying she believes the Reform Act doesn't go far enough, but her organization will support the bill and promote it in the months ahead through town hall meetings, rallies, candle-light vigils, forums at colleges and universities, churches and in communities across California.

FACTS was formed by small groups of local family members, which merged in 1997. FACTS has grown into the leading organization in the state fighting to change the Three Strike Law.

# Lewis Murder Suspect To Stand Trial

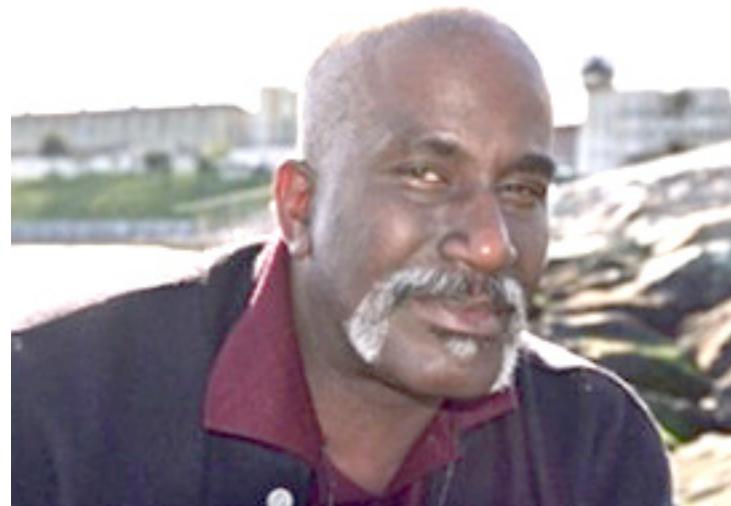
By N. T. "Noble" Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

After 10 months in a mental hospital, the accused killer of a prominent East Palo Alto community leader and former San Quentin inmate has been deemed competent to stand trial for the 2010 murder.

A San Mateo judge ruled in July 2011 that Gregory Elarms, 59, from Pittsburg, was mentally incompetent to face trial for the murder of David Lewis.

Earms was sent to Napa State Hospital for treatment. Two doctors at the state mental facility reported in May 2012 that Elarms was now competent to stand trial.

This determination opens the door for San Mateo Coun-



The late David Lewis posing outside S Q.'s main gate

ty District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe to proceed with the criminal case against Elarms.

Earms is accused of shooting Lewis, his childhood friend, in a parking lot of the Hillsdale Shopping Mall in San Mateo on June 6, 2011.

After his parole from San Quentin State Prison, Lewis became a community leader, drug counselor and motivational speaker. He founded Free At Last, a drug treatment program in the heart of the city that at one time was called the "murder capital" of the country. Lewis also helped to create the "Breaking Barriers" cognitive behavior program

that is used widely throughout the California prison system and in other states.

Lewis' murder went unsolved for six months until Elarms implicated himself in the shooting, authorities said. Elarms told investigators he believed Lewis had turned against him, but that was not true "as far as police can tell," prosecutor Al Giannini said.

Earms is facing charges of murder, weapons violations and laying in wait, a special circumstance. Elarms faces a maximum sentence of life without parole because prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty.

## Study Shows Fear of Arrest, Jail Are Top Crime Deterrents

By San Quentin News Staff

A new report says the best way to keep crime down is by increasing the certainty of arrest and incarceration, rather than the severity of the punishment.

The report evaluated how much the chance of arrest, imprisonment, the length of imprisonment had on property

and violent crime rates in New South Wales, Australia.

A one percent increase in the arrest rate for property crimes produced a 10 percent decrease in those types of crimes. The same increase in arrests for violent crime produced a 19 percent decrease in violent crime.

If the one percent increase in arrest rates is sustained, the study concluded, the long-term

effect is estimated to be a 14 percent decrease in property crime and 30 percent decrease in violent crime.

There was no evidence that increases in the length of imprisonment have any short- or long-term impact on crime rates.

The study was conducted by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

## Pending Criminal Justice Legislation

*The following is reprinted with permission from the March 2012 edition of the Friends Committee on Legislation of California's newsletter, FCLCA.org.*

Senate Bill 9, by Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, came within one vote of passing the full Assembly late last summer. This legislation – which permits prisoners serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for offenses committed as a minor to apply for a reduced 25-year-to-life sentence – is still on the Assembly floor. It is still a couple votes short of passage and will be reconsidered when it is believed there are 41 votes to pass and send the bill to the governor.

Assembly Bill 1270, by Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco, would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to permit media representatives to interview prisoners in person and would forbid

retaliation against prisoners for participating in interviews or communicating with members of the media.

Assembly Bill 1577, by Toni Atkins, D-Sacramento, would require the Department of Motor Vehicles and CDCR to enter into interagency agreements in order to assist prisoners in obtaining a valid California driver's license or identification card immediately upon their release from prison. CDCR could issue a parolee identification card, which the DMV would honor for the purposes of applying for a driver's license, or identification card. Having a valid identification card is necessary for applying for a job, establishing a checking account and obtaining housing.

Assembly Bill 1831, by Roger Dickinson, D-Sacramento, prohibits local government agencies from asking about an applicant's criminal history on an employment application. Agen-

cies could only inquire as to an applicant's criminal history after the agency has determined that an applicant meets the minimum requirements.

Senate Bill 983, by Toni Strickland, R-Thousand Oaks, would authorize county boards of supervisors to contract with out-of-state correctional facilities to house local jail prisoners.

Senate Bill 1060, by Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, would end the lifetime ban on receiving CalWORKS benefits for persons with felony drug convictions.

Senate Bill 1441, by Bill Emerson, R-Riverside, would require persons convicted of felonies otherwise punishable in a county jail who are sentenced to more than three years to serve their sentence in state prison.

Senate Bill 1506, by Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, would reduce simple drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor.

## 'Free to Succeed' Works to Expand Prisoner Literacy

By San Quentin News Staff

Improving the reading skills of incarcerated people opens up a world of opportunities for them and their families, says a community organizer of a volunteer-run literacy program.

"Helping someone read better is like tossing pebbles in a pond, except the ripples transform generations," said George Dykstra, program director of the non-profit Free to Succeed.

Free to Succeed has been helping prisoners at San Quentin State Prison improve their reading skills for 15 years. The volunteers hope that once the students become better readers, they will earn their GED, which will allow them to enroll in San Quentin's college program.

"I think if more people knew about the program, they'd participate in it," said participant Stanley Durden. "Since I began the program seven years ago, I know that my reading has improved. All of the volunteers help me in different ways."

"People feel better about themselves when they learn to read. They can pick up a book and learn new things," said Jane Levinsohn, a volunteer for six years.

Volunteer Daniel Costello said he wants to do something about California's high recidivism

rate. He said the more education an inmate gets, the better his chance of not coming back.

Costello said better reading skills enrich the person's ability to communicate with those around them.

"There's a lot of Spanish guys who come in the class to learn English," said Durden.

One of the newest volunteers



George Dykstra left back row and volunteer tutors

is Chirag Dalibar. "I identify with people who want to get an education against overwhelming odds," he said.

Dalibar, a native of Istanbul, Turkey, said coming inside San Quentin and working with prisoners is inspirational. "It's hard to make someone understand what I get out of this experience," he said. "It's like food for my soul."

Dykstra is seeking to add to his staff of volunteers. He says the recent influx of new inmates at San Quentin will quickly fill the open seats in the classroom.

The program is located in the Education Department and is open Monday through Friday from 6-8:30 p.m.

## HEALTH & FITNESS

By David Bennett  
Contributing Writer

*Editor's Note: David Bennett is a certified personal trainer.*

A healthy lifestyle is an important foundation for lifelong happiness. Unfortunately, it can't be attained through a magic pill or temporary fixes.

Regular exercise and a nutritious diet are the best ways to reduce the likelihood of chronic health problems, such as heart disease, cognitive impairment, diabetes, and cancer. They will also make you look and feel better now and in the years ahead.

Many people believe they do not have enough time to exercise on a regular basis because their schedules are too full. This could not be farther from the truth. Fifteen to 45 minutes of light exercise, a few times a week, is enough to see significant improvement to your health.

Join one of the many intramural sports teams, play catch, take a few laps around the yard. It may be tough to motivate, but it comes down to a choice between comfort now or comfort for the rest of your life.

The best way to start a fitness program is to set some goals. Start with something small and achievable. Walk or jog five laps three days a week, for example, then gradually increase the frequency and number of laps.

Before any strenuous exercise, be sure you are cleared by a doctor if you have any chronic health problems.

Think about it: comfort now or comfort for the next few decades. The choice is yours.

# Men in Blue Come Together To Attend Religious Retreat

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
and Jose Camacho  
Journalism Guild Writers

A two-day retreat designed to equip prisoners with the skills to improve their lives and communities was held at San Quentin in May. The retreat, entitled "Warriors of Light: Building Community with Jesus," involved spiritual exercises and thoughtful prayer and reflection.

"We are bringing the message of love, in hopes of instilling peace to the people of San Quentin," said Paul McMahon, one of the facilitators of the event.

The retreat was held for men in blue and outsiders and included guided prayer and meditation

conducted in both Spanish and English. "I enjoyed it so much," said participant Kenny Sapien. "The soul-searching, it was beautiful."

"We go in with a sense of hope for the inmate," explained McMahon, "that through our meditation we can build a large community of participants that are well-equipped to love, respect, and implement meditation in their everyday lives."

McMahon acknowledged difficulties for Latinos in "opening up" about personal issues and memories, considering the role "machismo" plays in the Latino community. "Latinos have played a tremendous role in the

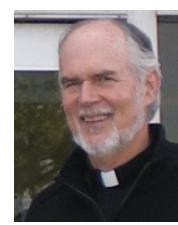
healing process," he says. "They open up with testimony that perhaps would not take place if they did not have the movement of the Spirit in what we call a 'comfort zone,' that allows them to actually be themselves."

Participant Roger Chavez said of the retreat, "It's a life-changing experience."

"There were times when I thought I was opening up old wounds but, in actuality, I was healing wounds that were never closed," added James Flanagan.

McMahon pointed out that San Quentin offers a unique opportunity for events like this. "We visit Corcoran, Chino, and other CDCR prisons, to carry

Retreat leader  
Father  
Michael  
Kennedy



# Welfare Fund

*Continued from Page 1*

However, the most significant part in the legislation is that the funds will "not be used for programs that the Department (of Corrections and Rehabilitation) is required to provide."

The legislation also proposes to give more discretion to individual prison wardens and prisoner advisory councils in determining how the funds could be used to best benefit the inmates of the respective institutions.

If the bill is approved by the Legislature and governor, it would authorize the IWF funds for athletic and recreational supplies, which currently is forbidden under state law.

The Legislative Counsel comments, "Under existing law, funds from the Inmate Welfare Fund are prohibited from being used for specified expenses, including overtime for staff, television repair, and athletic or recreation supplies. Under existing law, moneys in the fund, as they relate to state prison camps, are continuously appropriated. This bill would authorize the use of fund moneys for athletic and recreation supplies, and reentry programs, thereby making an appropriation."

The analysis also reports: "Existing law requires the Department of Finance to conduct a biennial audit of the fund and, at the end of each intervening fiscal year, to prepare a statement of operations."

# Rastafarians Start New Group in Chapel

A new group of African-based religion followers has announced plans for regular worship in San Quentin.

The group, called Universal Rastafari, has beliefs based on the symbols, rituals, axioms and teachings of Ras Tafari Makonnen, who was crowned king of Ethiopia in 1928. He became known as Emperor Haile Selassie I,

The Patriarch Abuna Basilios of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church coronated Ras Tafari as "His Imperial Majesty, the 225<sup>th</sup> king of Ethiopia, on Nov. 2, 1930.

The Rastafari faith says it has documented the lineage of Emporer Selassie as a direct descendant of the Biblical Kings David and Solomon.

"I started the group called House of the Lions of Judah Ecumenical Rastafari in Santa Cruz," said Shai Alkebu-Lan, a resident of San Quentin. "When I came here to San Quentin, I found there were no Rastafari services."

Alkebu-Lan said two other prisoners said they attempted to start Rastafari services without success.

"I had participated in Rastafari religious services at other institutions," Alkebu-Lan said. "We also had special diets for our religious needs."

Incarcerated for 15 years, Alkebu-Lan, 54, said he talked with Catholic Chaplain George Williams, Jewish Chaplain Carol Hyman and the prisoner-staff Religious Advisory Committee and Community Resource Manager Laura Bowman-Salszieder.

"They were very helpful in assisting us," Alkebu-Lan said. "After three months of

lobbying with San Quentin's administration, we've got a place of worship."

The Universal Rastafari services are held Saturdays from 1130 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Islamic-Jewish Chapel, with the exception of the first Saturday of the Month.

"Rastafari is inclusive to everyone," said Alkebu-Lan. "I encourage those interested to come and reason together with sounds and chants in the Nyahbinghi, the holy ground." Anyone wishing to attend should sign up with Chaplain Hyman.

# Get On The Bus

*Continued from Page 1*

Bus provides free transportation to three women's prisons and seven men's prisons. The non-profit provide travel bags, comfort care bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the trip (breakfast, snacks on the bus, lunch at the prison, and dinner on the way home), all at no cost to the children's family. On the bus trip home each child receives a "stay connected bag" which con-



sists of pens, paper, stamps and other goodies to keep the children connected with their incarcerated parents.

"This is a very special day for the men," said Kevin Chappell, San Quentin's acting warden. "It's always

good to see family come together. Reunifying families that have been disconnected brings good morale, which helps the men stay within the rules. Get on the Bus has brought much joy to many here today."

Children of all ages pranced around in purple T-shirts, getting refreshments, or headed to the cameraman to take a picture with their mom and dad. Kids took up all the seats as they played board games with their dads or newly found friends.

"Troy is a great father and role model," said Troyanna's mother Zunknie Newell, whose name means Morning Star in Swahili. "Bakersfield is so far away, and Get on the Bus provided us with this opportunity." She added, "I have a 19-year-old son doing a

40-to-life sentence in Pelican Bay right now. I am sure if Troy was in his life, he would not be in prison."

"This is our third time using Get on the Bus," said Eric Davis, whose family lives in Sacramento. "This has given me the opportunity to see my wife and kids an extra time each year." Keysha, Eric's wife, smiled and said the visit was timely because June 4 was their 20-year wedding anniversary.

*Children of Incarcerated Parents* reports that regular visits between children and their incarcerated parents reduces recidivism for the incarcerated parent and improves family reunification following the parent's release.

An estimated 297,000 California children have a parent in jail or prison, and 60 percent of those parents are held more



than 100 miles from their children.

Information about the faith-based organization can be found at [www.getonthebus.us](http://www.getonthebus.us)



# Teachers Assistant Leaving S.Q.

## HAZEL KOONS SPEAKS OF EDUCATION AT SAN QUENTIN

By Tom Bolema,  
Literacy Coordinator

Hazel Koons is a teachers assistant in San Quentin's Education Department. Her contract expires in August. Ms. Koons has a B.A. from University of California, Irvine in Psychology and Social Behavior, and a minor in Criminology, Law, and Society.

### What got you interested in working inside a prison?

I wanted to be a part of something that helps people change

**"My family and I have always believed that everyone deserves an education"**

and get on the right track in life. I grew up in an area where it wasn't really safe to stay out on the streets after dark, and I went to a high school where a lot of people dropped out. I knew prison is where they ended up.

## EDUCATION CORNER

Working inside a prison gives me an opportunity to help my people in the community.

**How did you feel about working inside an all male prison?**

It was challenging at first. There is always an adjustment period with co-workers and new people in a new environment, but once trust and respect is established then everything runs thoroughly. They know what I came here to do and all I do is that.

**What is your opinion about making education available for prisoners?**

I used to tutor at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey so I was familiar with juvenile facilities. I also took a tour of CIM (Chino) in college, but this is my first job working inside a prison. My family and I have always believed that everyone deserves an education, but it is just harder

for those who work and struggle on the street, not seeing why or the importance of school.

**Since working in the San Quentin's Education Department how do you think your work has affected the lives of the men?**

It is always rewarding to see a man succeed. To have a man stand on his own two feet, disciplined, focused, and achieve his goals, no matter how big or small, no matter what the obstacles are or what their peers think about them. I am always reminded from a book called *The Black Hand*, change is always possible and it makes a strong impact on others.

**If you could change one thing in San Quentin, what would it be?**

I would close it down. As long as parents, families, and communities raise their children, keep them out of trouble,

and show them the difference between right and wrong, then there would be no need for prisons.

**If your contract is not renewed do you plan to do any future work with CDCR?**

I will always go back to my old neighborhood to remember where I came from to make sure those kids try to stay in school or stay working to keep out of trouble, and keep away from those who get them into trouble. When I get a teaching credential, I would like to continue this work. Then, maybe work in a women's prison, too.

**What do you think will happen to the program in your absence?**

I think it will be a challenge in the classroom for teachers to accomplish things like copying worksheets and workbooks while they cannot leave the classroom. Teachers can become bombarded with questions and having to problem solve. The more help in the classroom for the students, especially in math, the better.

## Interim Community Partnership Manager



Steve Emrick, a former bridging teacher who also worked with inmates in the Arts in Corrections program, has been appointed Interim Communities Partnership Manager. Emrick is currently handling the CPM duties, taking the place of Laura Bowman-Salzsieder who is relocating to Florida with her family.

# Lawsuit Targets State's Prisoner Isolation Policy

By San Quentin News Staff

Ten men who have spent between 11 and 22 years in a segregated section of California's prison system filed a lawsuit to stop the conditions of "isolation, sensory deprivation, lack of social and physical human contact, and environmental deprivation."

The men are suffering serious mental and physical harm due to their prolonged confinement in the Pelican Bay Segregated Housing Unit, according to the lawsuit.

More than 500 prisoners (about half the population at the Pelican Bay SHU) have been there for more than 10 years. Of those people, 78 have been in the SHU for more than 20 years, according to prison records.

The complaint alleges that the men "languish, typically alone, in a cramped, concrete, windowless cell, for 22½ to 24 hours a day."

Here are the plaintiffs and their status as listed in the lawsuit:

**Jeffrey Franklin** is a member of the Black Guerilla Family. He has spent the last 22 years in the Pelican Bay SHU. In 2006, he was denied inactive BGF status based on evidence that he associates with other gang members, shares a common ideology, and attempts to educate the community and other prisoners to his philosophy.

**Todd Ashker** has spent over 25 years in solitary confinement, and 22 years in the SHU. He was validated as an Aryan Brotherhood member in 1988, and has



Photo By Nancy Mullan

General Population tiers at Pelican Bay State Prison

been denied inactive status based on confidential memoranda from informants and artwork found in his cell. Ashker has never been charged with or disciplined for a proven gang-related act. Authorities told Ashker, unless he renounces his membership in the AB and "divulge all of their secrets to the authorities, he will remain incarcerated in the SHU for the rest of his life."

**George Franco** spent 20 years in solitary confinement in the SHU. In 2008, prison officials said Franco is an active Nuestra Familia member based on confidential statements by informants regarding his role within the gang, and the fact that his name appeared on gang rosters found in other prisoners' cells.

**Gabriel Reyes** has spent almost 16 years in continuous isolation, and has been kept in the SHU for 14½ years. Reyes is serving a sentence of 25 years to life under the Three Strikes Law. In 2008, prison officials said he was an active Mexican Mafia associate because artwork found in his possession contained gang symbols.

**George Ruiz** has spent 22 years in the SHU, and the last 28 years in solitary confinement, because prison officials say he is a member of the Mexican Mafia. Ruiz has had no significant rule violations since his incarceration began in 1980. He has only had one disciplinary violation of any kind since 1986. Ruiz is serving a seven year to life sentence and has been eligible for parole since 1993.

**Richard Johnson** has spent almost 15 years in solitary confinement at the Pelican Bay SHU due to his validation as a BGF member. Johnson's Third Strike was a drug-related offense. He is serving 33 years to life. He has never incurred a major disciplinary offense in prison.

**Danny Troxell** has spent over 26 years in solitary confinement, and 22 years in the SHU due to his validation as a member of the AB. Troxell's only act of violence in the last 30 years involved a fistfight in 1997 in which nobody was seriously injured. He has been eligible for parole since 1996.

**"Of these people, 78 have been in the SHU for more than 20 years"**

**Luis Esquivel** has spent the last 13 years in solitary confinement in the SHU. He has never incurred a serious disciplinary violation. In 2007, after more than six years in the SHU, Esquivel was determined to be an inactive gang associate, but was nonetheless retained in the SHU. He was revalidated as an active Mexican Mafia associate a year later because he possessed allegedly gang-related Aztec artwork.

**Ronnie Dewberry** has spent the last 27 years in solitary confinement. He has been repeatedly validated as a BGF member based on his associations and his political, cultural, and historical writings. He has had no major disciplinary infractions since 1995.

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*The San Quentin News invited several prisoners to express their thoughts about their dads as Father's Day approaches. Here are some of the responses:*

"I had a good relationship with my dad. He is one of the smartest individuals I know. I have a daughter and a stepdaughter. I love them both very much. I mostly love my daughter's energetic assertiveness and my stepdaughter's outgoing personality." — Angelo Falcone

"I think the best quality in a dad should be that he spends time with his kids." — Mike.

"To our fathers, whom we love so much, although sometimes we don't say it to them. But, forgive us for the lack of confidence in explaining one's feelings. Today, we wish you all the happiness of the world and for you to enjoy the happiness of the world and for you to enjoy this father's day." — Arturo G. Pureco

"Every good father should spend time with his children." — Project REACH volunteer Sue.

"I love that my dad always smiled." — Pete

"I didn't have a father and no father figure, but I believe every good father should love his kids unconditionally. I have a daughter and she loves me even though I wasn't there for her." — Dexter Coleman

"I had a father, but he didn't pay attention to me. I had no father figure and I never had any kids, but I think that every good father should be responsible." — Nate Collins

"I didn't have a father, but other men I looked up to treated me like a son. My father figures were my coaches, older male family members and even my friends' dads. Every good father should be loving and present." — Kenyatta

"I grew up with a dad and I liked the way he cared for me. I have two daughters and I am very proud of them because they are educated and they inspired me to get my education." — Valeray Richardson

"I didn't grow up with a dad. My father figures were my grandfather and an uncle. A good father is always concerned about his kid's future. I especially love my daughters' shyness and their gentleness." — Larry Histon

"I didn't grow up with a father, but I had an uncle who treated me like a son. I do not have any children, but I believe every good father should be understanding with his kids." — David Monroe

"I had a good relationship with my stepfather. He was my dad. I have no kids but I think every good father should be willing to sacrifice himself for his kids, like my dad. He was the epitome of what it means to sacrifice for his kids." — James Cavitt

"I grew up with my dad and I have no kids, but I believe that every good father should be loving and understanding." — Robert Frye

"I had a father and I had a good relationship with him. He was very passionate. I have a daughter and I love her beautiful persona." — Philip Senegal

"I had a father but my relationship with him was in the middle. It was okay. A couple of my uncles were good role models and father figures in my life. I have had no kids but I believe that every good father should have patience." — John Neblett

"Pops, you are an example of who I want to be. You've always been there for me and I'm thankful for that. May time continues to bring us closer and allow you to teach me the lessons I need to know. Know I love you and wish you a happy Father's Day." — Michael Tyler

"Thanks to an awesome father for always being there, for leading by a legal example, for admitting your mistakes, but most of all thanks for being a true friend my best friend." — Will Shipley, Jr.

"A man armed with excellence, love, strength, integrity, structure, guidance, discipline, sacrifice, commitment and pride is forever our dad. With honor and respect, we salute you. We love you pops Happy Fathers Day." — G.R. Mendez

"My mother is my father. I want to wish her the best on 'Fathers Day' for being there for me and the family. I love you." — Theotis Stewart

"Happy Fathers Day. I hope you have a great father's day. I wish you all the best in life. Dad, today I say thank you for being in my side along all this hard time. I love you Dad." — Fabian Vazquez

"Although I have gone astray from your teachings, today my guides are your values and principles. It is an honor and a privilege being your son. Quezada, Chivero and Michoacano all the way to the end." — Miguel Quezada

"Happy Fathers Day, Ernest Chavez. This is your special day to be honored by your family for all you've done and continue to do for all of us. We all want you to know you are appreciated and loved with all our hearts. From all your children and grandchildren, thank you for all the love you give all of us." — Roger Chavez

"Father, dear father, I miss you with all my soul. I love you and adore you without resentments. Happy father's day. You are a dad who has always wanted the best for your children. You are unique, and I hope to see you soon. Your son, who appreciates you." — Eddie Cruz

"Dad I'll never forget how you used to watch soul train every Saturday and afterwards you'd play all of your music cassettes and sing along on your mic. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was being schooled on how to appreciate good music, this is something that is now an important part of my life and I thank you. Love ya pop's! Happy Father's Day." — Jerome Boone

"Dad, you showed me how to live and how not to live. I used it and raised a great son (Ricky) thank you! 'You gave what you knew and I gave what I knew better.'" — Moses Duran

"Pops, God knows you've been a better dad than I ever had a right to, always there for me even now, you will always be my hero Love you always." — Ricky Abeyta

"Growing up my mother was my father. Mom was never bashful to step in and take on the roles that are traditionally reserved for fathers. Here is to you mom, 'Happy Fathers Day'." — Charlie Spence

"For my father, Francisco (Don Pancho) Barboza, a strong and honest man. And, for my brother, Antonio Barboza who had a heart bigger than Texas. In peace they rest" And, for my brothers, nephews and cousins in Texas and here in California, I send you a happy father's day. With respect." — Adam Barboza

"I would like to say happy Fathers Day. I have so many memories when I was growing up, especially on Christmas day when you were dressed up as Pancho Claus. As I grew older you were teaching me the value of life. I'm so lucky to have you as my father. You are my number one. Regardless of our differences hopefully this would put a smile on you and on the same token I'm glad I'm your son. Happy Fathers Day tu hijo Claudio." — Apa Armando

"To my dad Arnulfo Rioas, who is watching me from heaven, who tried to teach me right from wrong, who worked in the fields and like to play la arcoden and love to sing corridos old school. When my time comes I'll be with him in heaven too, but for now straight from mi cora. I miss you and love you Happy Fathers Day tu hijo en Quenmas." — Juan Rioas

Dad thank you for being the greatest father that a son could ever ask for. Always being there for me when I needed you really shows the father that you've always been. After being married for 50 or more years I want to thank you for showing the inspiration of a father when mom passed away. Showing us that example of the husband and father, Dad I love you. — David Baker

Jess, writing to someone who I have lost respect for and came to hate, is not easily done. First I had to forgive myself for all the things I have done and blamed you for. I have forgiven you and I pray you forgave me. I never honored you, today I do, not with what I did in the past, but with who I am today. I always loved you despite the ugliness. Rest in peace. — Dennis Pratt

I want you to know on this day Dad that I love you and you always have been and continue to be a wonderful father. I love you and I want you to know that I am there with you in spirit and in thought. Happy Father's Day Dad. — Steve Phillips

Dad I want to thank you for being there when nobody else is. You are my father, my inspiration and my reason for being a man now. I love you Happy Father's Day. — Randy Carey Jr.

#### Quotes from Get on the Bus day:

"This is an awesome event where you get to see the children interact with their fathers. The looks on the kids' faces make it all worth while." — Jessica, volunteer

"Today kids get treated like super stars." — Karen Vandelaat, volunteer

"I am so thankful that Get on the Bus brought me to see my daddy. This is the first time I met him. I love him." — Troyanna

"I'm feeling good and tired. I got up at two in the morning because I was so excited that I was going to see my daddy." — Eryka

"I feel good about seeing my dad. It's been since Christmas. It's good that they do this for us. It wouldn't be possible to see my dad without Get on the Bus." — Isaiah

"I don't see my dad as often anymore, but now he's coming home and I'm really excited. I've been visiting him for 17 and a half years. Honestly I'm in shock that he's finally coming home. Get

## Meeting My Son for the First Time



By D. Rasheed Smith  
Contributing Writer

Last year I met my son, Haikeem, for the first time. He was 24 years old. It was Get on the Bus weekend at California State Prison, Solano, and I noticed a tall, slender young man anxiously pacing in front of the window in the visiting room. I knew it was Haikeem and I was completely petrified.

When I entered the visiting room, my son smiled brightly at me. It felt like the sun shined only for me. He looked directly into my eyes for a moment or two, and greeted me with, "What's up, pops?"

I felt an instant connection between us. Maybe it was just my imagination, but it felt like everyone in the visiting room seemed to be focused on us. Besides Haikeem's birth, it was the most amazing experience I had ever felt. He hugged me and said, "Happy Father's Day."

I pulled my son close to me and pressed my face up against his, both our cheeks wet with tears. I told him, "Son, I apologize for failing to fill the long void you've must have felt these many years because of my absence."

In addition to that blessing, the weekend also included a surprising twist. As fate would have it, Haikeem's half-brother's grandmother, Mary, was visiting her son at Solano that same weekend. Haikeem and Mary sat beside each other on the shuttle bus, not knowing their relationship. They struck up a conversation, as strangers often do. Haikeem told her that it was the first time that he would meet his dad, and he was very nervous.

Mary reassured him that things would be just fine. "Just relax. I'm sure that your dad is just as excited about meeting you." Mary couldn't help feeling something familiar about the young man and told him he looked like her grandson.

When Mary walked into the visiting room, I recognized her immediately. My son and I walked up to her, and we stood there holding hands trying to understand what was happening.

During my incarceration, I constantly prayed, asking Allah to reunite me with my family, and if it was His will and wisdom, to please bring my children together.

Months later, my family experienced another surprising reunion. I had sent Haikeem photographs of his half-brothers, whom he had never met. While riding the light rail from home to school, Haikeem noticed a kid waiting at the station

who looked like his older brother, Chris, in the photos. He got off the light rail, approached Chris, and tapped him on the shoulder. "Hey, man, I know you!"

Chris looked at Haikeem, not recognizing him. "Man, you must be mistaken," Chris said.

"It's no mistake. I'm your brother, Haikeem. Our dad has sent me pictures of you." Chris later told me they instantly connected. Allah was answering my prayers.

With more than 130,000 people incarcerated in California, the relationships between imprisoned fathers and their children are strained, and sometimes shattered. But fatherhood does not stop for the incarcerated, and it is more than just biology. It is a lifetime commitment to being there, devoting your time and attention, and giving your love unconditionally.

My visit with Haikeem was the best day ever. Never underestimate the power of your child's love. Even in a place like prison, there is always prayer that we can turn to hope.

*Editor's note: D. Rasheed Smith is a San Quentin prisoner.*

on the Bus is an awesome program." — Desiree

"I am so happy for the Get on the Bus program. I thank all the people involved in this program. This gives us a chance to do things as a family." — Jessica Armengo

"My daughter makes me feel proud. This is just a wonderful program. I can't say enough good things about it. It's special and makes you feel special." — Abel Armengo

"I think this atmosphere is appropriate, it's a lot more relaxed. I think it's happier for the families. Especially the fathers, having the opportunity to know their children reconnect with their children's roots. Get on the Bus does a really unique service and coming into this situation makes the father proud." — Correctional Officer M. Bock

## SPORTS

# Baseball Players Ready for Season



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Nghiep "ke" Lam

San Quentin has two baseball teams—the Giants and the Athletics. Players from teams discussed their preparation for the up and coming season:

Christopher Deragon, Left Field, San Quentin Giants – “My approach to hitting is simple, I try to work the count in my favor, 3-1 and 2-1. That way I know the pitcher has to throw me a fastball. As for my off-season preparation, I do weighted legs as much as I can and run as many baseball related drills as time allows.”

Michael Tyler, second base/catcher, San Quentin Giants – “I do the same I do every year, I think about the situation, what am I going to do if the ball is hit to me. I also stretch and exercise. I always try to maintain a positive attitude. This is just a game, and it shouldn’t change me for the worse.”

Dwight Kennedy, Center Field, San Quentin Giants – “My approach has to stay and be fundamentally sound. For baseball, there is a constant need for being mentally prepared. Especially having a new brand of players, the veterans have to set the right example

former coaches Earl Smith, Bobo, and Mr. T to name a few.”

Ruben Harper, Catcher, San Quentin Athletics – “This is my first time catching and it’s a new experience for me, which I’m looking forward to. As a catcher, you have to get certain signs from the coach and pitcher so you have to have a positive mindset. We’re practicing situational baseball. You have to prepare for what to do if the ball is hit to you as an infielder or outfielder. As a catcher, and me starting a new catching position, I pretty much have to stay observant of my teammates in the field regarding letting them know how many outs it is and what to do with the ball if it’s hit to them. My observance includes looking out for my teammates off the field as well.”

Cleo Colman, Second base Athletics – “My approach is to stay focused and to get as many reps as I can. I take ground balls and throws to first and second, charging the ball. I get batting practice twice a week. The main thing is to have fun and live in the moment.”

—Gary Scott

## Member of Thousand Mile Club Discusses the Discipline of Running

By Miguel Quezada  
Journalism Guild Writer

Angel Gutierrez of the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club discussed being a member of the Thousand-Mile Club.

**When and why did you begin running?**

I started running in prison. I wanted to lose weight so I could be physically healthy and in the best shape possible. Running is the key in my goal of being fit.

**What life skills have you gained from running?**

I am more disciplined, not only in running but also in all

that I work to accomplish. I have a greater sense of responsibility that will help me succeed in life. Importantly, running has given me the ability to better cope with stress.

**As an athlete, what running events do you compete in?**

So far, I have competed in the half mile, mile, and three mile events.

**Which event would you say is your strong suit?**

I am a long distance runner, so my performance is a lot stronger on longer runs. I excel in the three-mile competition.

# Warriors Lose Battle To the Sports Ministry

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team’s zone defense crumbled against the outside Sports Ministry basketball team, losing the game 92-78.

The Warriors started the fourth quarter down 65-58. After Richard “Mujahid” Munns knocked down two free throws, The Sports Ministry answered as Mike Juco made a fast break assist to Ben Ilegbodu.

After a Sports Ministry free throw, the Warriors returned as Munns buried a three pointer and Jhavonte Carr scored on a put back.

The Sports Ministry answered as Ilegbodu scored on a put back and Mark Ivy scored on a layup increasing their lead to 73-65.

Later in the fourth quarter, Ilegbodu drove to the basket for a layup, and then knocked down the free throw for a 76-68 lead.

Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson  
Stokes-Gullen taking a jump shot

Jahkeem Stokes-Gulley made many plays for the Warriors throughout the first three quarters. Late in the fourth quarter, he scored on a floater from the free throw line.

However, that’s when Ilegbodu of the Sports Ministry exposed the Warriors zone defense. He scored on layup, knocked down a three pointer, made another layup and buried another three pointer respectively.

Stokes tried to carry the Warriors to a comeback by making two free throws, a layup and a put back, but it was to late for the Warriors. They could not make the necessary stops on defense to win the game.

Ilegbodu finished with a game high 30 points. “I wanted to close the game out and be aggressive to the end,” he said after the game. “It’s always great coming out here. It’s definitely fun”

Stokes-Gullen of the Warriors finished with a team high 19 points. Said Stokes-Gullen, “My mind-set was tough defense, smart offense, and team work. Coach Wright told me to go ‘head, play my game, and play as a team. Although we lost, we played our game.”

## Intramural Basketball Held First Annual All-Star Game

San Quentin’s Intramural Basketball League held its first annual All Star game last month.

Rebounding made the difference in the game as West dominated East, defeating them by a score of 93-77.

Mid-way through the second half of the game, the East attempted to overcome a 63-47 deficit. James Burton made a fast break lay-up, Daniel Wright hit a jumper, and Charles Pete made an assist to Burton. After the West made two free throws, Wright completed a three-point play and Billy Wilson made a lay-up for the East to draw within seven points.

Both teams began to trade baskets, as Kittrell Blade completed an assist to Paul Davidson for the West and Wilson hit a jump shot for the East.

Pete made an assist to Burton to cut the East deficit to 69-64.

Later, the West proceeded to pull away as Davidson hit Blade on an assist and then Blade returned to complete a three-point play after a foul call on a floater. Then, Dozier finished a coast-to-coast layup and Blade made a strong move for a layup. Mike Ware hit K. Dozier on an assist to increase the West lead to 10.

The West never looked back as they went on to finish five lay-ups. Most of their success came off offensive rebounds as they dominated the boards.

Blade Kittrell, J. Robinson, and K. Dozier each had double-digit rebounds, contributing to the West’s victory.

Blade finished as the most valuable player of the All Star

Game, scoring 28 points along with 16 rebounds.

“In the game, I had to be focused,” Blade commented. “We came out to have fun for the first half, but the second half we was going for the win. I know I had to play my role and play it well. It was easy to run the floor with my teammates and it made it easier for me.”

Notes:

Ishmael Freelon won the free throw contest, making nine out of 10.

Allen Branch, of the San Quentin Kings basketball team, won the three-point contest, making seven out of 12.

Travis Adams won the slam-dunk contest by completing a lob and a strong jam.

—Gary Scott

## Club Discusses the Discipline of Running

**You run with the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club. Are members required to run and eventually complete that many miles?**

For many members that is a yearlong goal that they do achieve, but it is not required. The goal is to bring people together in camaraderie no matter who you are and become healthier together.

**When and where does the club train?**

We train on the lower-yard, mostly on Monday nights at 6 p.m.

**If someone wants to run with the club, must they first be a member?**

No. Anyone interested can show up to have fun and do his best. Throughout the week, club members run by themselves or others members, after or before work and school. Anyone can join in at his leisure.

**There will be a half marathon in August and a marathon in November. What training do you do for such events?**

Training is intense. It involves long distance running, speed running, and interval training for four to five days a week with the rest periods. Recovery is very important to allow time to heal and avoid injury.

**What advice can you offer to anyone who is considering running as a hobby or joining the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club?**

Running is not just about competition. Give the club a try and if you like it, stick to it. You may find joy and new friends.

# San Quentin Alumnus On Life After Prison

Kevin "Big Sticks" Hagan paroled to Los Angeles on April 14, 2011 after spending 28 years in prison, the last 16 of which were at San Quentin. Now he divides his time between the California Youth Authority, where he's a teacher and mentor for incarcerated youth, and the security team at GBK productions, where he has worked at events like the Academy Awards, the American Music awards, the Golden Globe Awards, the NAACP Image Awards, and the Kids Choice Awards.

## How are you staying on the right track?

By remembering where I came from, and in knowing that those I left behind are counting on me to represent to the fullest. I hope to pave a way for them by leading by example.

My family has been so supportive and loving. My job is to help raise the little ones coming up. I love doing it and sharing quality time with them. I have a very special lady in my life, Lesia, and she's just everything I was looking for in a woman. I am blessed to have a 5 year old grandson that keeps me on

my toes and has become a very big force in my life, as I have his.

## What are the most difficult aspects of life on the outside? How do you work through them?

The most difficult aspect of life is how rude and inconsiderate people are out here, and how everyone is so impersonal. I also had to learn not to take it personally. I had to take a good look at myself and reevaluate the way I viewed things and shed that

***"Don't let your situation take your spirit, nor change the unique individuals that you are"***

prison mentality. I work through these times by using many of the philosophies that I learned in the self-help groups that I was able to utilize at "The Q". I don't let much get me down, because the big picture is freedom and being out here with family.

## What were some of the most valuable programs you participated in at San Quentin?

The programs that really made an impact on me were the SQUIRES program, The Catholic Church, IMPACT, VOEG, The VVGSQ, Brothers Keeper's, The Arts In Corrections. I gained a lot of insight about the triggers that made me think the way I did before I committed my offense. And of course putting myself in the shoes of those whom I have hurt — empathy is the word I am looking for.

## Were there any turning points during your time at San Quentin?

One turning point for me was watching several of my friends pass away in there, and saying to myself that when my time comes, I would like to pass at home with my family. The other turning point for me was returning to Jesus Christ.

## Any messages for the men still inside?

I love all of you guys. Don't think for one minute that I have forgotten you. I keep you in my prayers and in my heart



Official Photo

Kevin Hagan at home

as I walk this walk and not just talk. You guys are with me every step of the way. As we say, before you can help anyone else, you have to have yourself straight. The only thing that stops us is ourselves, and every one of you has the ability and know how to make things work for you. I am very proud of all of you, and waiting for the day when

we can go have lunch. Don't let your situation take your spirit, nor change the unique individuals that you are. Always see yourselves outside of those walls, and keep it one hundred percent with you.

— Lizzie Buchen, San Quentin News adviser

# Uncertainty Surrounding San Quentin Hobby Craft

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin prisoners are appealing new restrictions on the popular in-cell hobby program. The appeal was denied by the Warden and is being appealed to Sacramento.

The curbs were imposed on Mainline inmates effective in January by former Acting Warden Michael Martel. The changes effectively eliminated leatherwork, woodwork, stained glass, beading, jewelry and paper craft. It permits pen and pencil drawing, charcoal/pastel sketching, and watercolor painting.

The current acting warden, Kevin Chappell, was asked about his position on in-cell hobby during a recent Men's Advisory Council meeting. He said, "As long as it does not cost the state any money or is a security issue, I see no problem."

A memorandum from San Quentin Hobby Manager Andre Williams to all handicraft Mainline inmates informed them that a new allowable property list had been issued. The memorandum instructed them to turn in all no-longer-allowed tools and reduce their handicraft materials to the allowable limits, in order to avoid being in violation and



shop," states Richard Honea, a hobby participant who's been in the in-cell program about 19 years. "The hobby manager can't always be here 24 hours a day. He has a life of his own."

"I've never had any problems," Williams said when questioned about whether there have been any safety or security-related problems or issues with the Mainline in-cell hobby program.

Regarding the hobby program in general, Williams said, "I think it's a great thing. I think there's nothing like it. It's one of the few things a person can do to stimulate their mind on the creative side. You're giving them a skill that's a gold mine out there... people still want it."

Research shows that inmates actively engaged in positive hobby activities are less likely to have serious disciplinary problems.



Official Photo

Prisoner Nick Garcia building wooden boxes

having their hobby privileges suspended.

Williams is the hobby manager for Condemned Row, which is not subject to the changes made to Mainline programming, according to the Hobby Operational Procedure.

According to Williams, who has also taken over the responsibilities for the Mainline in-cell and in-shop program, the main issue regarding the changes is the number of hobby managers at the prison has dropped from three to one.

Williams explains that there are almost 200 inmates currently enrolled in the in-cell program but only 46 positions for the in-shop program.

"I've had maybe two to three in the past year or two," stated Williams, when asked how often positions become available for the in-shop program.

Some of the Mainline in-cell hobby inmates decried these changes as "discouraging" and "ridiculous."

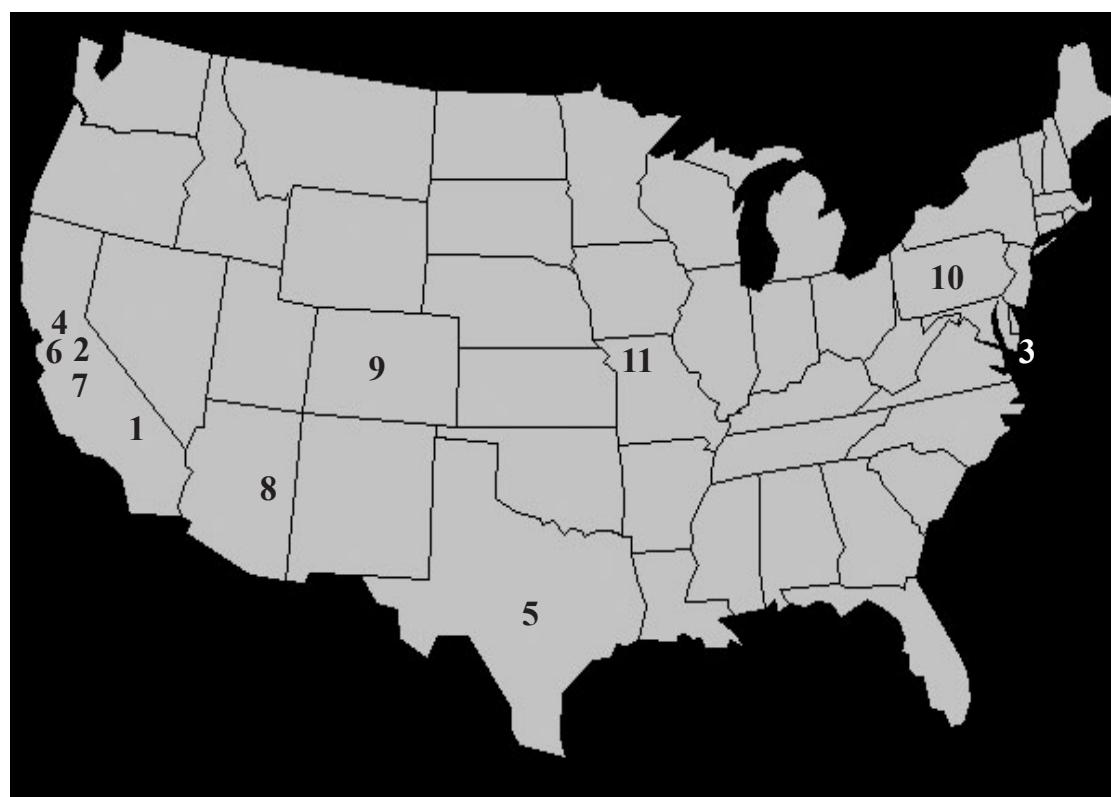
Jasper Alford, a leatherwork and beading craftsman, said "not being able to have the right tools in my cell to work

on things, like crimp pliers, lacing pliers, and things like that" make it impossible to do his work.

"It's pretty ridiculous," complained Valentine, another participant who works on plastic and paper models. "The only thing we really use to make models is tweezers; children's scissors—the rounded, blunt kid's scissors—sandpaper; and non-toxic, non-flammable model glue."

"These things you make are all time consuming and, if you work (as at prison job), you can't always make it to the

## News Briefs



**1. LOS ANGELES** — A former top college football prospect was cleared of rape charges after his accuser said that she lied and the conversation was recorded. Brian Banks had served five years in prison after pleading no contest to one count of forcible rape and spent five years behind bars. Banks spent nearly five years as a registered sex offender before a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge cleared his name. Banks is now trying out for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

**2. SACRAMENTO** — County jails showed a slight increase during the last quarter of 2011. The jail population went from 71,293 to 72,132. Maximum-security detainees rose from 22,478 to 23,339, according to corrections authorities.

**3. WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that California's use of its "three-strikes" law to increase prison sentences for defendants who had convictions as juveniles is legal. *The case is Staunton vs. California, 11-8851.*

**4. SAN FRANCISCO** — Carl Wade was granted a compassionate release from prison because he is confined to a wheelchair, needs oxygen to breathe, and is terminally ill.

After prison officials and the parole board granted his release, a Lake County judge disagreed and said Wade belongs in prison for his 1986 murder. The state appeals court overruled the Lake County judge and ordered Wade's release.

**5. AUSTIN, TX** — State officials were ordered to pay about \$2 million to Billy Frederick Allen, who spent 26 years on a murder conviction that was overturned.

**6. SAN QUENTIN** — A Death Row prisoner committed suicide in late May, prison officials report. James Lee Crummell, 68, was found hanging in his cell at San Quentin State Prison.

**7. SACRAMENTO** — A federal judge rejected the state's request to retake control of the prison system's medical delivery system. Judge Thelton Henderson ruled the state did not show they are ready to retake control of the system.

**8. FLORENCE, AZ** — At least seven prisoners died from drug overdoses in the past two years. State officials classified the deaths as suicides, according to The Republic.

**9. FLORENCE, CO** — After spending more than six years in one of the most isolated prisons in the United States,

Jose Martin Vega was found hanging in his cell, according to The Atlantic. Vega had a long history of psychiatric problems, prison officials told Fremont County Deputy Coroner Carlette Brocious. The prison's mental health practices and policies are now subjects of a new federal lawsuit.

**10. PENNSYLVANIA** — With state prison spending becoming the state's fastest-growing expense,

Gov. Tom Corbett congratulated a think-tank for providing ways that the state could focus on rehabilitation, efficiencies in the system and reinvesting money in public safety to bring down prison costs, reported Donald Gilliland in the Patriot-News. "The proposals would send millions to counties for improved policing and probation at the local level, and offer millions more to counties that reduce the number of people they send to prison with less than one year to serve."

**11. KANSAS CITY, MO** — A shortage of the state's death-penalty drug was resolved when they decided to use a single drug instead of the three-drug method to implement capital punishment. The drug, propofol, is the same one that killed Michael Jackson.

## Over 2,000 Falsely Convicted of Crimes

By San Quentin News Staff

In the past 23 years, more than 2,000 people were falsely convicted of a serious crime and exonerated, a newly compiled database revealed.

The University of Michigan Law School and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law compiled the information and found nine out of 10 of the exonerations were men and half were African-Americans, reported the Associated Press.

About 50 percent of the 873 exonerations were homicide

cases, including 101 death sentences. More than one-third of the cases were sexual assaults, the report discovered.

In half of the 873 exonerations studied in detail, the most common factor leading to false convictions was perjured testimony or false accusations. Forty-three percent of the cases involved mistaken eyewitness identification, and 24 percent of the cases involved false or misleading forensic evidence.

In two out of three homicides, perjury or false accusation was the most common factor leading to false convictions.

In four out of five sexual assaults, mistaken eyewitness identification was the leading cause of false convictions.

DNA evidence led to exoneration in nearly one-third of the homicides and in nearly two-thirds of the sexual assaults.

The registry excludes at least 1,170 other defendants whose convictions were thrown out beginning in 1995 when 13 police scandals were uncovered nationwide. In all the cases, "police officers fabricated crimes, usually by planting drugs or guns on innocent defendants," the report finds.

## Economy Benefits From Prison Labor

By San Quentin News Staff

If California's prisoners did not make many of the goods used by the state's agencies, its economy would be negatively affected.

A 2010 report said sales would decline \$295.5 million, state household income would decline \$75.6 million, and 1,170.5 jobs would be lost statewide.

The California Prison Industry Authority employs about 619 free persons and about 6,010 inmates in its adult correctional institutions. They fabricate office furniture, mattresses and bedding, clothes, license plates and other items, used by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the public universities. Some facilities also have dairy and poultry farms.

CALPIA sales and in-state expenditures for fiscal year 2008-09 totaled \$282.8 million. The total impact of CALPIA activities on the economy of the state of California was \$497.1 million in sales, total household income impact \$132.7 million, and total impact of 2,394 jobs.

Inmates work approximately 30 to 35 hours a week and receive wages of 35 cents to 95 cents per hour. CALPIA inmates contribute up to 55 percent of their wages to court-ordered restitution and fees. These contributions help crime victims and reduce court processing costs.

The report issued by the University of Nevada, Reno is called *The Economic Impact of the California Prison Industry Authority on the California Economy for FY 2008/09.*

## Oversight Recommended For Prison Medical Care

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Creating an independent oversight program and controlling costs should be long-term goals for prisoner medical care, the independent Legislative Analyst Office advised state lawmakers in an April report.

"We recommend that the Legislature create an independent board to provide oversight and evaluation of the inmate medical care program to ensure that the quality of care does not deteriorate over time. We further recommend that the state take steps to address current operational inefficiencies and establish a pilot project to contract for medical care services to bring state expenditures to a more sustainable level," the agency stated.

In 2006, a federal judge placed the California prison medical department under receivership because it failed to deliver

constitutional medical care to its inmates. Since that time, the receiver has increased the quality of inmate medical care but also increased state expenditures.

The LAO said the increased cost of the inmate medical care program resulted from not consistently delivering the appropriate level of care, not taking advantage of audio and video technology that could link patients to outside specialists, and an inefficient management structure.

In January 2012, federal judges found substantial progress towards achieving a constitutional level of medical care for prison inmates. But they ruled more improvements are needed.

The court ordered prison administrators, the receiver, and attorneys representing prison inmates to jointly develop a plan for transitioning the responsibility for managing inmate medical care back to the state.

## Appeals Court Ruling Says Jury Must Decide Strikes

By Richard Richardson  
Graphics Editor

A recent court ruling gives renewed hope to prisoners sentenced under the nation's harshest Three Strikes law.

The May 3 ruling overturned James Calloway's 2001 sentence of 25 years to life for failing to comply with California's Sex Offender Registration Act — his third strike.

Calloway appealed, arguing that a Superior Court judge had erred in classifying his 1993 assault as a strike. The judge had relied on transcripts and records to determine that the assault inflicted great bodily

injury upon his victim, but a recent federal decision ruled that a judge must rely on facts found by the jury.

The decision, which reversed Calloway's second strike, may have implications for a number of California's prisoners. CDCR records show that more than 5,858 second strikers and 1,091 third strikers have strikes for assault.

Recently, a San Quentin inmate name LaQuan Hayes was sent back to court under a similar issue that Calloway found his relief under.

(see February 2012 issue of The San Quentin News).



# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The men on the mainline and outside volunteers have a variety of experiences with fatherhood. "Asked On The Line" asked 46 mainliners and six outside volunteers: Did you grow up with a dad? If not, did you have a father figure? Are you a parent? What

characteristic do you love about your dad or what characteristic should every good father have?

Thirty, or about 65 percent, of the men in blue grew up with their fathers. All six of the outside volunteers grew up with their fathers. Most of those that did not grow up with a dad looked up to uncles,

grandfathers, coaches, neighbors, and even their friends' dads as father figures.

Twenty-eight or about 61 percent of mainliners interviewed have children. Only two of the six volunteers interviewed have kids. The majority of men in blue have daughters — about 57 percent of those who were interviewed.

# 'Abolishing Death Penalty Could Save State Millions'

By San Quentin News staff

Supporters of a ban on capital punishment say it would save at least \$139 million a year, the equivalent of hiring 2,500 new teachers or hiring 2,250 new California Highway Patrol officers.

That is one of the conclusions in a new report by the American Civil Liberties Union, entitled *The Hidden Death Tax: The Secret Costs of Seeking Executions in California*. The study finds capital punishment generates a host of unavoidable costs.

Mandatory appeals and legal fees take up much of the expenditures; however, the largest expenditure is the annual cost associated with housing more than 720 condemned men and women, according to the report.

Death penalty trials cost at least \$1.1 million more than non-death penalty trials, the report says. California counties may spend at least \$22 million more per year seeking execution than other prosecutorial options, according to the report.

The report also emphasizes that more than 125 innocent peo-

ple have been freed from Death Row in the U.S. since 1973.

"Executing all of the people currently on Death Row or waiting for them to die naturally — which will happen first — will cost California an estimated \$4 billion more than if all of the people on Death Row were sentenced to die of disease, injury or old age," the report says.

California voters will decide in November whether to eliminate state executions and substitute life imprisonment without the possibility of parole as the state's harshest punishment.

# 'Breaking Barriers' Self-Help Group Graduates First Class

By San Quentin News Staff

The inaugural class of a new self-help program in San Quentin celebrated how it changed the way the students think, so they could change the way they live.

***"You made a conscious choice to change."***

Breaking Barriers shows participants the connection between distorted beliefs, negative behavior and incarceration.

"You made a conscious choice to change," said Nathan Rapp, a representative from the office of state Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley.

"The decisions you make in the moment will help shape things going on into the future."

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal, a peer educator, provided participants with a curriculum that focused on self-examination as a means to change the behavioral patterns that led them to prison.

Also supporting the program were peer educators Alfonso Carranza and Ed Smith, plus free staff intervention specialists Naomi Prochovnick and Abayomi Bramem.

"You've invested in yourself and you said you can do this," said Carol Burton, executive director of Centerforce, which sponsors the program. "However, your re-

sponsibility goes beyond today. I'm looking forward to seeing you change the world."

The event concluded with some of the graduates giving testimonies to the effectiveness of the program in their lives. Lorenzo Robinson told the class that his main problem was reacting too quickly to other people's actions. He said Breaking Barriers taught him, "No one has control over you, unless you give it to them."

"I felt like a broken down car, and you guys gave me the tools to fix myself," said Pete Thao. "Now, I know that I have to perform regular maintenance on myself to stay on the right track."

Graduates received a certificate that will be documented in their prison record and a bracelet reading "I'm Breaking Barriers."

# We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is the only prisoner-produced newspaper in the California prison system and one of the few in the world. Prisoners do the reporting and editing work inside the prison, but they need help paying to have the paper printed.

From its founding in 1940 through 2009 the paper was printed by prisoners in the print shop. But in 2010 the print shop was closed due to statewide cost cutting measures.

Since then the paper has been printed at Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. The cost has been covered by private donations through a non-profit established for that purpose, the Prison Media Project.

Those donations are shrinking and if the paper is to continue, new support is needed. Please go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), to see how you can become a supporter. You get a tax deduction...plus a year's worth of copies of the newspaper mailed to you.

Many thanks, San Quentin News Staff and Advisers.

# We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

# San Quentin News

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Adviser.....Joan Lisetor  
Adviser.....Steve McNamara  
Adviser.....Lizzie Buchen  
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## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

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## Prison Investors Back Tough Laws

By Richard Richardson  
Graphics Editor

Privately owned prison investors are banking on incarceration instead of rehabilitation by supporting politicians who are "tough on crime," according to a new report analyzing how corporations affect U.S. prison policy.

From 1995 to 2010, the privately owned prison population in the U.S. rose from three percent to eight percent because more criminals are being sentenced under harsher laws and are receiving longer sentences.

Many states transfer inmates from overcrowded prisons to privately owned prisons instead of implementing evidence-based rehabilitation policies, according to the report. Those policies have shown to reduce overcrowding by lowering recidivism rates.

Corrections Corporation of America and the Geo Group are the two major privately owned prison contractors in the U.S. They grossed more than \$3 billion in 2011.

The report claims private prisons are plagued with a lack of oversight and poor medical conditions. It adds that women, the mentally ill or serious offender are not likely to be housed in private prisons because of the high cost it will take to care for them.

"Private prisons experience a higher proportion of Inmate-on-inmate assaults" due to the lack of oversight, the report says.

In 2008, the U.S. Immigration and Custom detained Hui Lui "Jason" Ng, and transferred him to a privately owned facility. Ng died while in the custody of the private prison because officials thought he was faking his medical condition, according to a lawsuit filed on his behalf.

Another report, by the Justice Policy Institute, details how corporations such as CCA, GEO and Cornell Company donated over \$3.7 million to politicians, party committees, and ballot

See *Tough on Crime* on Page 4

## Hamlet Production Captivates Crowd



Julian Glenn Padgett, as Hamlet, warns Horatio, played by Angelo Falcone, of impending doom

By Christopher Christensen  
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 300 people packed the San Quentin Garden Chapel in June, transforming the space into a Danish castle awash with Hamlet's anguish and anger over the murder of his father.

See *Hamlet* on Page 4

To read graduation Valedictorians' speeches see our web site



Photo By Sgt. W. Baxter

The 2012 graduating class awaiting their diplomas

## Fifty S.Q. Men Graduate

CEREMONY HONORS THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

Prisoners, their families, education volunteers and staff got a special treat in June, witnessing 50 men reach significant educational milestones despite being behind bars.

"You have accomplished something remarkable, and for that we applaud you," said acting Warden Kevin R. Chappell.

The 2012 San Quentin graduation ceremony kicked off with the Vietnam Veterans Group presenting the colors before a ju-

bilant crowd. Incarcerated men received their vocational training certificates, General Education Degrees and Associate's degrees through the Robert E. Burton Adult School as well as Associate's degrees from Patten University.

Vice Principal, Frank Kellum, addressed the crowd, making changes to the official program, bringing laughter and smiles to a packed Protestant Chapel before he introduced the warden.

"This milestone in their educational experience takes dedication and resolve and is

especially admirable when accomplished in the prison setting," said Chappell. "They have achieved their educational goals, and we commend them for their success."

Chappell lauded the collaborative effort between Burton and Patten, saying it "lends credence to the department's continued goal of rehabilitation and positive reintegration into society."

Keynote speaker Yolanda Jackson told the men, "do not let others validate your work. You

See *Education* on Page 4

## U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down Mandatory LWOP for Juveniles

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

The nation's high court said a juvenile who commits murder could not be automatically sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The Supreme Court held 5-4, in *Miller v. Alabama*, "that mandatory life without parole for those under the age of 18 at the time of their crimes violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishments."

## At-Risk Youths Visit San Quentin

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

The S.Q.U.I.R.E.S. of San Quentin teamed up with the Los Angeles Police Department to give 32 at-risk boys a tour of the prison in hope of diverting them from future criminal activity.

The impact is illustrated by comments from two of the boys at the end of the tour:

See *A Day* on Page 6



Photo By Sgt. W. Baxter  
Correctional Officer J. Robinson checks an at-risk youth at San Quentin's main entrance.

# Prisoners Join Amala Foundation in Peace Walk

By San Quentin News Staff

Amid tennis matches, basketball games, and inmates otherwise enjoying a warm Saturday afternoon, the Amala Foundation held its second annual Peace Walk for Children.

About 30 local community members joined hundreds of San Quentin prisoners to bring awareness to the displacement children undergo as a result of political strife throughout the world.

"This day is a day of unity for me," said Vanessa Stone, one of the organizers of the foundation.

"We get to touch lives from what we do, and it ripples throughout the world," said another foundation organizer, Kathy Harris.

The first lap around the prison yard was walked in silence. After the first lap, community members and inmates talked to each other about the significance of the event.

"I'm a refugee from Laos," said Boualay Sengsavang, a San Quentin prisoner. "When political actions happen and dislocate children, that resonates with me."

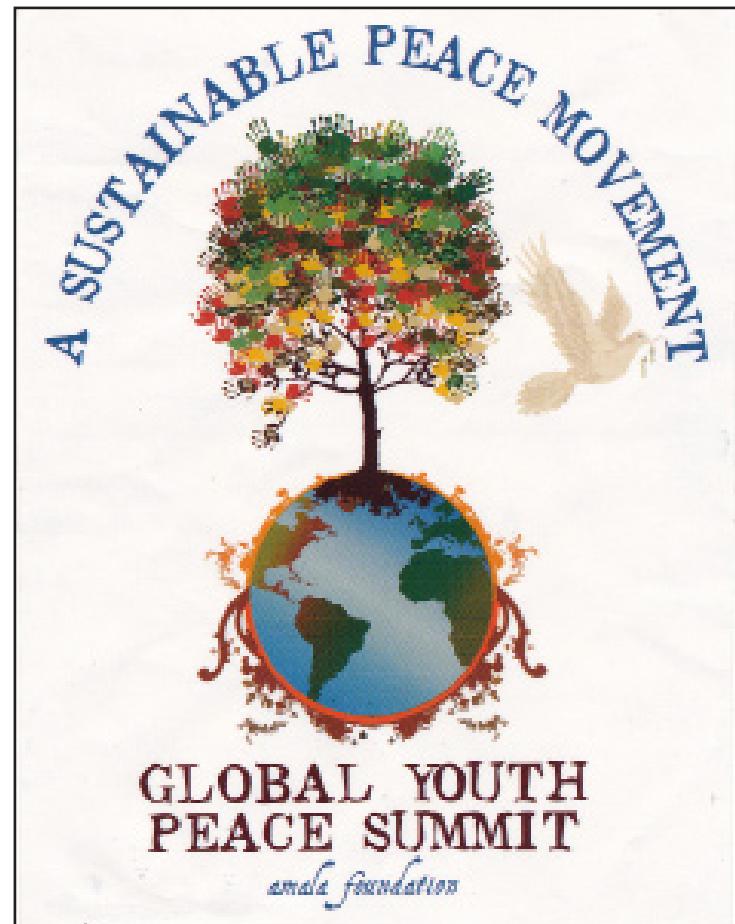
The community members and prisoners walked in pairs, threes and fours circling the softball-sized field of the prison's Lower Yard.

"I support peace," said 24-year-old Jahkeem Stokes-Gulley, an inmate at San Quentin. "I'm trying to get a better understanding of peace, a better definition of peace. I can do this by participating in this walk that has a lot of different people of different ethnicities."

"I support nonviolence throughout the world," added Sean Littlefield.

John Wilkerson provided easy-listening music from a variety of bands. A representative from Texas group, Mindz of a Different Kind, entertained the crowd by chanting, "Soul is the remedy," and the audience responding with, "I feel it in my soul."

Ebo Thorbas, a community member who describes himself as a "long-term societal planner," said, "I like to be a part of anything that breaks the monotony of prisons, because when any man is in prison, every man is in prison."



Troy Williams, 44, had just arrived at San Quentin three days before the event, after being transferred from Pleasant Valley State Prison. Williams was walking alone. He said he's been incarcerated for 27 years, and felt that his incarceration has cost him his ability to socialize. He said the ability to interact with community

members helps him reconnect with himself. Williams said, "I feel like I've been in a long storm, and events like this let me know it's coming to an end."

At the end of the walk, all participants held hands to encircle the softball outfield.

The event continued with some participants going inside an air-conditioned building to tell stories of how the experience transformed their thinking or redefined their perspective about those living behind bars.

The room was filled with teary eyes, laughs, and stories about how the walk changed their lives.

The group chanted, "Love, respect, honesty, community, one village for children who can't find their voices," and the event ended.

Last year the walk collected more than \$12,000. This year's donations are close to \$10,000 in support of the annual Global Youth Peace Summit held at its headquarters in Texas. Next year the summit is scheduled to be held in the Bay Area.

## Prisoner Fire Fighters Work To Refurbish Bikes for Kids



Robert Henderson and Derrick Edgerly of the San Quentin Fire House

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Every kid loves bikes and wants one—no matter where it comes from.

Derrick Edgerly is a San Quentin inmate firefighter who also is involved in the bike program.

Local police departments give the bike program broken down bikes. Inmates, like Edgerly, refurbish, then donate the bikes to needy children.

"It's always a pleasure when I see those bikes, because I know that they are going back to kids

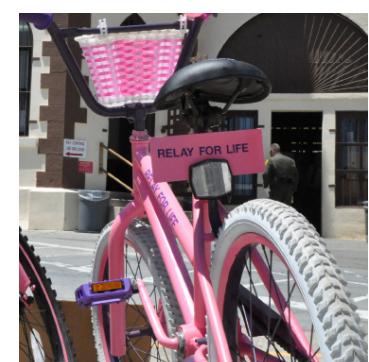
that deserve them," Edgerly says. "Sometimes the bikes require a lot of maintenance. Each year we refurbish enough bikes to give about 20 to four or five different organizations that work with kids," he added.

Edgerly's latest work was done for an organization called Relay for Life. Correctional Sgt. Weaver asked Edgerly if he could build a mother/daughter bike set in support of an auction for breast cancer research.

Edgerly said the project made him feel useful. "I'm sure everyone knows someone that's

been touched by cancer," he added.

Inmates Glen More, Alcaraz Reyes and Armando Mendez assist Edgerly in refurbishing the bikes.



## Ramadan Starts this Month

Ramadan will begin on July 20 or 21, dependent upon the sighting of the new moon, starting a period of fasting and prayer practiced by over 1.6 billion of Muslims worldwide.

## OFFICIAL SAN QUENTIN WARDEN'S BULLETIN

Effective immediately, Inmate CDCR 602s will not be forwarded to the Appeals Office via institutional mail. Inmate/Parolee appeal forms will be placed inside the green, secured, collection boxes identified as "Inmate Appeals" by inmates and/or staff members. The boxes are located at the following locations.

- Outside Four Post
- Across from Max Shack
- The CHSB entrance
- South Block rotunda
- Outside Wall Post 13
- Outside each tier in North Seg
- Inside the Rotunda of South Block
- Inside the door used as yard exits for the Adjustment Center, Carson, East Block, North Block, and West Block
- East Block (yard side) on grill gate as you exit East Block
- Inside the entrance to Dorms 1 through 5 in H-Unit
- Outside Wall Post 13 (PIA side)

Staff are expected to collect and deposit appeal forms into secured Appeal boxes during institutional lockdowns. Appeal Coordinators and/or other Appeal Office staff will collect appeals daily from each site (except for holidays and weekends).

# Memorial Honors Fellow Prisoner

By Journalism Guild Writers

The San Quentin community came together in the Garden Chapel to memorialize and commemorate Levelt Duverne, 39.

Duverne's April 25 suicide stunned the San Quentin population.

The memorial service for Haitian-born inmate was attended by about 50 men in blue, institutional staff, and the San Quentin Prison University Project volunteers.

The service began with a prayer led by Protestant Chaplain Mardi R. Jackson.

Following the prayer was a reading of Psalm 23 by Kara Urion, the Prison University Project administrator who worked with Duverne.

"He was one of the most brilliant students in the college program," remarked a tearful Urion prior to the service.

San Quentin's New Dae musical group sang, "Heaven is my Home."

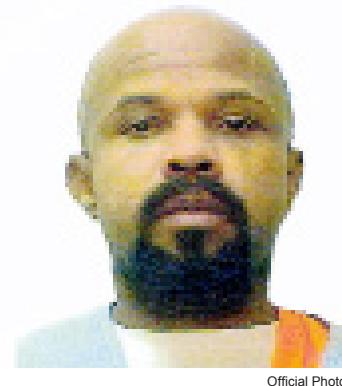
Former cellmate Danny Cox eulogized Duverne. "He was a brilliant mind. He studied a minimum of 12-14 hours a day and spoke seven languages fluently. He often spoke of his family with a lot of love and affection," said Cox, breaking down several times. "It still weighs on my heart."

After the eulogy, a number of memories of Duverne were expressed by educators and men in blue.

"He was really open to being changed by things he learned," said Marianne Kaletzky, a graduate student from UC Berkeley who teaches Spanish at San Quentin. "There is that piece that's missing from my life now."

Alton "Coach" McSween recalled, "He always had a smile on his face."

"He was brilliant, as he was humble, and the best asker of questions I've had in the classroom," said one of his English 101-B instructors, Geoffrey O'Brien.



Levelt Duverne was found unresponsive in his cell

"Levelt was always incredible and intense, funny, and had a good sense of humor," expressed Victoria Kahn, another of his English 101-B instructors. She added, "I loved his personality. He didn't seem the type of person that would commit suicide. He was engaged in life, a critical thinker and extremely intelligent."

"Levelt always was generous when sharing his ideals with the class. He always asked instructors intelligent questions. In his final presentation to class, he expressed passion and rigor for topics, and inspired everyone," said Haley Pollack, his English 204 instructor.

Alex Miley, Spanish 102 Instructor, said, "We really missed him in the class and his contagious joy in learning. But I am glad we did get to have him at least for the time he was here, and I am so glad to have the opportunity to share his memory here today with the other students and teachers who knew and loved him. He was a very special student, and he touched us all."

Sam Aranke, program administrator for the Prison University Project, said, "I will always remember Levelt for his quietness and respectful ways. He had a way of asking questions that were generous, caring, and patient. His death reminds us of the need for support for those of us who might be suffering all alone."

Juan Haines commented, "He was a wonderful human being."

Jody Lewen, director of the Prison University Project, said of Duverne, "He was an extraordinary person...we were heartbroken to lose him."

The service concluded with another prayer led by Chaplain Jackson.

Duverne was 10 years into a 16-year-to-life sentence for second-degree murder.

## T.R.U.S.T. HEALTH FAIR

San Quentin is scheduled to hold its ninth annual TRUST Health Fair in the Lower Yard on Aug. 17.

The theme of this year's event is T.R.U.S.T. CARES (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training — Collaborating for Access to Resources Education and Screening).

These information booths are scheduled to be available for prisoners:

- Centerforce
- Bay Area Black Nurses
- Asian Pacific Islanders
- Modesto Tai Chi
- Yoga with James Fox
- San Quentin Medical Staff
- Chiropractors
- Alameda County Public Health Department
- Urban Male Health Initiative

# Four Remarkable Years

## San Quentin News Returns to Publication

By John C. Eagan  
San Quentin News Adviser

It has been four remarkable years since the San Quentin News was rescued from the dustbin of history, and burst forth with a new vigor and vitality that pumped life into "The Pulse of San Quentin," the slogan of the newspaper.

Slowly but consistently, the quality of the prisoner-produced periodical gained in stature, respect, and professional quality, despite an enormous array of obstacles.

It was April 2008 when then-Warden Robert Ayres Jr. resurrected the newspaper after a hiatus of about 18 years. He picked Kenneth Brydon and Michael Harris as the inmate editors. He asked me, a retired journalist, to be the paper's volunteer adviser. I agreed, after he assured me he wanted the San Quentin News to be the voice of the prisoners, not the warden's mouthpiece. My concept was a paper that improved communication within and without the prison.

We started our ambitious adventure in the San Quentin print shop, with crude and outdated computers, software and printing equipment. Nevertheless,

we produced our first edition of the new San Quentin News in June 2008. Since then we have produced 35 editions, overcoming bureaucratic tangles, budget cuts, lockdowns, quarantines and a few hostile staffers. Unlike any regular news room, we operate without a telephone, a camera or internet access.

In those four years, we have labored under five wardens with changing prisoner staff and administrators, including three principals of the Education Department, where we are located. We have also added three other volunteer advisers — Steve McNamara, Joan Lisetor and Lizzie Buchen. Together we have more than 100 years of professional journalism experience. There are also new top editors: Arnulfo Garcia and Juan Haines. We get substantial help and stories from the San Quentin Journalism Guild, which is open to most any prisoner who wants to learn to write for the newspaper.

After about a year and a half, the print shop closed under the budget cutting axe, and Design Editor Aly Tamboura was loaded on a bus to transfer to another prison. We struggled for four months to retrieve a computer from the locked print shop, train

a new designer, working in little more than a closet. We arranged to print the paper at an outside printing plant — at our cost, because the prison system withdrew any money for printing.

It took about two years to get an adequate news room equipped with computers for writing stories and laying out pages. Along the way, Tamboura was transferred back to San Quentin.

Today things are running about as smoothly as you could expect inside a prison. The quality and professional level of the newspaper are remarkable — truly amazing when you consider it is produced by prisoners with no previous journalism training or background.

We believe, and many others agree, that the newspaper has a positive influence on the prison and on outsiders who learn about what prisons and prisoners are really like.

Without doubt, we are not perfect, but our goal is to make every edition a little better than the one before. We believe we have usually achieved that goal, thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of people. We are proud to be the only prison newspaper in California, and one of the few in the world.

## Banquet Held by Alliance Group

By San Quentin News Staff

Community volunteers and prisoner graduates were honored at a recent banquet marking the second year of a San Quentin program designed to change how inmates think about themselves.

"We need to change our perception that society is against us. That perception is what leads to a lot of crime," said R. Malik Harris, president of the Alliance For Change group. "We need to change the way parents treat their children — many of us are parents and many of us will be getting out some day."

About 100 prisoners and 50 community members attend the dinner, including eight inmate facilitators and 14 graduates.

"Alliance For Change is a self-help program that shows inmates the relationship between their feelings and their actions," said Harris. He quoted Frederick Douglass: "Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither person nor property will be safe."

AFC focuses on self-discovery, accepting responsibility and realizing the necessity for change with structured classes.

The program is developing classes to show inmates how to prepare for parole board hearings, how the justice system works, and show ex-offenders



President Malik Harris and Kim Richman presenting a plaque to Erica Duggen (Right)

Photo By Sgt. W. Baxter

how to reenter their communities safely, according to its public relations representative, Chris Deragon.

"Our program shows men how to change from the inside out; this will keep people from returning to prison," said Harris. "We teach men how to understand themselves. We're in the business of making better people."

Community volunteers met regularly with inmate facilitators four to five times a week, over a 16-week period.

"When I tell my friends that I come inside San Quentin to help them with their program, my friends cannot image the warm feeling that the men give me. The inmates treat me with more respect than people on the streets. They treat me like fam-

ily," said AFC community volunteer Kristy Ronquist.

Community volunteer Samantha Epstein and inmate Felix Lucero were given awards at the banquet for developing AFC's mentoring program.

"The program teaches incarcerated men how to re-integrate back into their communities as an asset by focusing on all aspects of justice," said Deragon.

"Once a person understands the justice system as a whole, the participant is able to understand what learned behaviors were most influential into their deviant behavior."

The program's chief sponsors are correctional Lt. Sam Robinson and community volunteer Romania Jaundoo.

## Class of 2012

### Patten University Associate of Arts Degree

Stanley Baer, Danel Bass, Heracio Harts, Jorge Heredia

Richard Lindsey, Richard Richardson  
Christopher Schuhmacher, Rodney Scott  
Sajad Shakoor and Miguel Villanueva

### Voluntary Education Program Graduates

Brian Carnes, Walter Frank, Jason Kish  
Miguel Quezada and Tariq Shabazz

#### GED Graduates

Rosario Banda, James Bennett  
Tim Fielder, Antoniao Genovesi  
Don Hinck, Wesley Langkamp  
Gary Andre Patton, John Perez  
Ricky Renslow, James Talley

Fabian Vasquez and Donavan Wilson

#### Vocational Certification Graduates

Eric Boles, Dexter Coleman, Adam Davis  
Christopher Deragon, Eddie DeWeaver  
George Greenwood, Ralph Hughes, Gary Kosta  
Alejandro Lee, David Monroe  
Calix Racimo, Richard Richardson, Sa Tran, Keung Vanh  
Miguel Villanueva, Binh Vo, Duane Whaley  
Van Wilson, Thomas Winfrey and Phouen You

#### GED Graduates in Absentia

Shannon Carson, Benjamin Goldman  
Eric Reason II and John Santner

## Miller v. Alabama

### Continued from Page 1

bilitation and therefore are less deserving of the most severe punishment. The majority's decision was based "not only on common sense" but on science and social science.

The court, in a 5-4 decision, invalidated the sentences of two men who had committed murder at the age of 14 and were sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

In each case, state law mandated a sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

The sentencing courts could not consider the youth of the offenders or the nature of the crime.

In 2005, the Supreme Court held in *Roper v. Simmons* that it was unconstitutional to sentence juveniles to death.

In 2012, the court ruled in *Graham v. Florida* that juveniles, who do not commit murder, could not be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. The court considered a juvenile's "lessened culpability" compared to an adult who commits a similar crime and greater "capacity for change." The court said the punishment of life with-

out the possibility of parole was compared to the death penalty.

The *Miller* ruling said for a court to impose the death penalty, it must consider the characteristics of a defendant and the details of the crime. Similarly, before imposing a sentence of life without the possibility of parole on a child, a court must consider the child's age and role in the crime.

The court relied on psychological and scientific studies used in the *Graham* decision, showing the difference between juvenile and adult minds, particularly in behavior control. The court also noted the susceptibility and vulnerability of children to criminal behavior by their peers.

The decision reiterated the reasoning used in *Graham* that "youth matters in determining the appropriateness of a lifetime of incarceration without the possibility of parole."

The court's decision requires that a juvenile receive individualized consideration when sentenced for murder.

*The cases cited for this article are: Miller v. Alabama (No. 10-9646, June 25, 2012), Roper v. Simmons (543 U.S. 551), and Graham v. Florida (560 U.S. \_\_\_\_).*

## Tough on Crime Legislation

### Continued from Page 1

shows that 36 co-sponsors of the bill received donations from lobbyists tied to the prison industry, the report says.

Privately owned prison investors oppose sentencing reform or legislation that will reduce the need for more prisons, the report concludes.

The report, *Prison Bed Profiteers: How Corporations Are Reshaping Criminal Justice in the U.S.*, was prepared for the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

A legal challenge of Arizona's immigration bill, now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court,

## Education Accomplishments

### Continued from Page 1

have to validate yourselves." Jackson is deputy executive director of the San Francisco Bar Association.

"Education expands your choices; it gives you the opportunity to lead a life you value," she said.

The next speakers were program valedictorians James Talley for GED, Thomas Winfrey and Michael Villanueva for vocational, and Chris Schuhmacher for Patten University. Each recounted personal challenges as well as giving thanks to their teachers and programs.

Schuhmacher sported a pair of sunglasses and sauntered up to the podium to the Door's song "Break on Through." He dedicated his degree to his sister, Pamela. He asked her to stand as he told how his sister missed her own college graduation ceremony to attend his trial.

"Without hesitation, she sacrificed her own graduation ceremony to be there and support me during the trial, and while I can't give that day back, I'd like to honor her by dedicating this one to her," Schuhmacher told the crowd, his voice breaking and unleashing a wave of tears and a standing ovation from the audience.

After Schuhmacher's moving speech, Patten University keynote speaker Geoffrey O'Brien, a professor at Berkeley and volunteer with the Prison University Project, took the stage. "You should be really proud of the degree you've earned," he



Photo By Sgt. W. Baxter

Patten Valedictorian, Chris Schuhmacher, addresses the audience at the 2012 graduation ceremony

said. "That pride should extend beyond your specific accomplishment to the larger change you've made."

After the speeches, each graduate in cap and gown walked to the stage to receive diplomas and certificates. During the intermissions, the band "Just Came to Play" treated the crowd to smooth Latin Jazz tunes.

Afterward, the graduating prisoners and their families were treated to cake and were allowed to mingle in the Garden Chapel area.

"I am proud of my father," said Heracio Harts Jr., who came to watch his dad graduate with an Associates of Arts degree. He leaves for college this spring, a few months before his father's scheduled parole.

## Hamlet in the Protestant Chapel

### Continued from Page 1

standing-room-only as prisoners and volunteer actors captured the admiration of many who had never before seen a Shakespearean play.

"I have been an actress for many years," said Keating. "My reason for coming to S.Q. is to raise consciousness, foster community, and have my fellow actors learn as individuals and as a team. My belief is that they can achieve who they believe they are and not what the past has told them. Shakespeare brings them alive."

***"I had goose bumps. I wanted to laugh and cry"***

While there were praises and laughter throughout the performance, there was a thunderous standing ovation at the end.

**Sarah  
as  
Ophelia  
and  
Erin  
O'Connor  
as Laertes**



Shakespearean actors performing Hamlet in S.Q.

"Incredible," said Elizabeth a community volunteer. "I had goose bumps. I wanted to laugh and cry. I have seen many (productions) and had a new appreciation, respect and admiration for Shakespeare. Thank the cast for me."

The actors said the opportunity to transform themselves into Shakespearean characters allowed them to forget for a few moments about being locked up. For days, the performance was one of the biggest topics of conversation on the yard.



—Clinton Martin contributed to this story.

# Fourth Annual Avon Breast Cancer Walk

By San Quentin News Staff

More than 300 inmates and approximately 60 community members walked the San Quentin Lower Yard in support of cancer research. Inmates walking in the event donated more than \$2,100 in the prison's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Avon Breast Cancer Walk.

"God put it in my heart to find out what I can do to help find a cure," said Sam Johnson, co-chairman of San Quentin's Breast Cancer Walk. "I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, I praise God for everyone who lent a helping hand for this worthy cause," added, co-chairman Steve Pascasio.

Johnson and Pascasio brought several inmate self-help groups together to sponsor the July 7-8 fundraiser. An additional \$1,300 was donated by San Quentin TRUST, The Richmond Project, Kid CAT, Alliance For Change, Thespians, The 1,000 Mile Club, The Work, Kairos, and No More Tears.

Toward the end of the walk, donations neared its goal; however, it was about \$200 short. An anonymous donor contributed



Photo By Michael Nelson

Warden Kevin Chappell, center in black, initiates the long procession of supporters

the needed amount and the goal of \$10,000 was met.

"It does my heart good to see so many different groups come together and set their differences aside to make this happen," said acting Warden Kevin Chappell.

"The breast cancer walk is an opportunity for the Richmond Project to take our minds off the

negativity that plagues our community and give back to those in need. We want all to know that the Richmond Project is about peace, love, and togetherness, no matter what city or community you dwell in," said Reginald Hunt Jr.

San Quentin's Arts in Corrections program donated about

25 pieces of art. The prison's hobby program donated handmade bracelets. The art and the bracelets will be auctioned on Dec. 7 at the Oakland Art Museum to support the Women's Cancer Resource Center.

"I live in a world fueled by generosity, compassion and love," said Peggy McGuire,

executive director of Women's Cancer Resource Center. "\$4.8 million was raised by Avon, with \$1.2 million given to our foundation. This includes money raised by the San Quentin walk," McGuire added. "I will be wearing my San Quentin CARES pink shirt at the San Francisco breast cancer event."

Inmates, community members, and staff who participated in the walk were given business-sized cards saying *I walked*, and pink bracelets saying, *San Quentin Cares, 2012*.

"I was blessed to walk in memory of my grandmother and aunt who recently died of cancer," said Clinton Martin, an inmate who worked on the walk.

"I would like to commend all of the volunteers, staff, and especially, inmates who have demonstrated their support and commitment to this vital cause. Thank you for standing by the women and men who have been or will be impacted by this disease. Together, we will be triumphant!" said Sen. Loni Hancock via letter to San Quentin.

## 11. I got my GED/HSD in another institution/state but don't have a record of it. What should I do?

You do not need to possess a copy of your high school diploma or GED certificate to enroll; verification in your C-file is sufficient. If you do not have either, please speak with us at the New Student Orientation to request a HSD/GED Verification Form. Through this form, we can obtain verification from the institution that originally granted the diploma or certificate.

## College Program Statistics:

- Founded in 1996.
- Roughly 130 volunteers per semester.
- Over 100 students have completed their AA since 1999.

• College Program Coordinators: Jody Lewen, Kara Urion, and Amanda Howell.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions!

If you are at San Quentin now, you can write to us via institutional mail (please include your name and CDC#):

**Patten University Education Department**

If you are at another facility, you can write to us here:

**Prison University Project  
PO Box 492  
San Quentin, CA 94964**

## About The Prison University Project at S.Q.

### EDUCATION CORNER

By Patten University at San Quentin Coordinators

Frequently asked questions about the San Quentin College Program (aka "Patten University at San Quentin" or "Prison University Project") – July 2012

#### 1. What is the College Program at San Quentin?

The College Program at San Quentin is an extension site of Patten University. The Program offers college preparatory courses in math and English, as well as college credit classes leading to an Associate of Arts degree in liberal arts. All classes take place in classrooms (mostly in the evening), and are led by instructors. All instructors in the San Quentin College Program work as volunteers. Most are graduate students or faculty from local colleges and universities such as UC Berkeley, Stanford, San Francisco State University, or the University of San Francisco. All lead instructors for credit classes hold at least a Master's Degree in the field in which they teach – just as would be required at any other college or university.

#### 2. What is the Prison University Project?

The Prison University Project is the non-profit organization that was founded in 2000 by a group of volunteer instructors to provide material and financial support to the College Program at San Quentin, PUP's off-site

office, school supplies, and other program expenses. PUP receives no funding from the state or federal government.

#### 3. Who is eligible to participate in the San Quentin College Program?

Any person who is part of the mainline (level II) population at San Quentin and holds either a high school diploma or GED is eligible to enroll in the College Program.

#### 4. What does it cost?

It costs nothing to participate in the College Program. The College Program charges no fees or tuition, and students are lent the textbooks they need for their classes, and given the necessary school supplies (such as notebooks, folders, pencils, etc.)

#### 5. How do I sign up?

Please send a note expressing your interest in participating in the College Program via institutional mail to "Patten University at San Quentin, Education Department." Be sure to include your name and CDC#. We will add you to the Program waitlist, and notify you of the date of the next New Student Orientation as soon as space becomes available. If your housing changes, don't worry! We will make sure we have your most up-to-date housing information before we mail you any information about the College Program, so long as you provide

your CDC# when you write to us.

#### 6. How long will I have to wait before I can enroll?

Currently, new students are waiting an average of two semesters (eight months) *from the time they sign up for the program* before being enrolled into classes. Fall semester begins in September; spring semester in January; and summer semester in May. Orientation sessions are typically held the month prior to the start of the new semester. All students must attend an orientation session before being enrolled in classes.

#### 7. If I am not currently housed as San Quentin but want to participate in the College Program can I be transferred there?

Yes, as long as you currently hold either a high school diploma or GED, and are eligible for a level II mainline. To start this process, you should communicate to your counselor that you would like to be transferred to San Quentin for this purpose.

If you would like us to send a letter to your counselor, explaining the College Program and expressing support for your transfer request, please write to us at "Prison University Project, Post Office Box 492, San Quentin, CA, 94964."

In your letter, please provide us with contact information for your counselor. Be sure to include your full name, CDC#, and current address, and indicate whether you have a high school diploma or GED.

#### 8. I have credits from another college – can I transfer them in?

The prison's College Program must complete English 99A, English 99B, English 101A, English 101B, and English 204 at San Quentin, unless they place out of one or more of these by taking a placement exam offered after attendance at a New Student Orientation. Only once students have completed (or have placed out of) these English classes, will the College Program evaluate transcripts from other colleges to see whether any courses taken previously might fulfill requirements for the Associate's degree. However, students are encouraged to take all required courses with the Program, since all students benefit academically from the additional experience. In particular, students whose previous experience was with distance learning courses generally report that the College Program offers a completely different level of educational experience.

#### 9. Is there a way of getting to the top of the waitlist without waiting all that time?

No. All prospective students are added to the waitlist as soon as they contact us directly (either in writing or in person) expressing interest in enrolling in the College Program.

#### 10. I got transferred to SQ specifically to participate in the College Program – do I still have to wait?

Yes. If you transfer to San Quentin, we will add you to the waitlist as soon as you contact us to say that you have arrived (see instructions above in question 5).

# A Day In the Big House for At-Risk Youth

*Continued from Page 1*

"They don't mess around. I thought it was fun and games, but I see it's not. They got murderers and people on Death Row. It's scary," said Oscar Lopez.

"I'm going to respect my mother. I'm going to respect other family members, and I'm going to stop doing the things I was doing," said Chris Montana.

Organizers said the tour helped the boys see the difference between the real world and a world where violence, drugs and death are common themes.

Edwin L. Henderson, executive director of On a Mission, was accompanied by LAPD officers Gus Tarian, Oscar Ibanez, Erwin Rocha and Lori Green to



Photo By Lt. Luna

Guard wands youngster show the South Central Los Angeles youngsters the real side of criminal activity.

Henderson said On a Mission's goal is to show kids that prison is no Hollywood movie.

The prisoners who led the group of kids are a part of a program called SQUIRES.

Facilitators of SQUIRES say they offer mentorship to boys on the brink of entering into the criminal justice system.



Photo By Lt. Luna

Prisoner explaining how to respond to an alarm



Photo By Lt. Luna

At-Risk-Kids escorted past San Quentin's Lower Yard



San Quentin Staff Photo

Kids lined up to receive a pat down search inside San Quentin's East Gate.

The day began with the youngsters submitting to clothed body searches conducted by serious-looking guards in front of the prison.

Next, they went through the Sally Port, the entry portal between two sets of huge iron doors marking the entry to where inmates live and work in San Quentin State Prison.

"Now, listen up! You are not in boot camp. You are in San Quentin State Prison, where there are different rules. When you hear an alarm go off, you will get down and stay down until you are told the alarm is cleared," SQUIRES facilitator James Cavitt told the youngsters.

"When you hear 'Escort!', you will turn around and face the

wall until the escort has passed. Today you will be one of us," he explained.

Their indoctrination included an agreement to honor three basic principles: respect, honesty and confidentiality.

Later, the group walked to the Lower Yard, where hundreds of prisoners were going about their daily prison routines.

"Look at that little one there. He looks like he'll be here in a couple years," one prisoner remarked.

In an attempt to show these youngsters the consequences of bad choices, ex-gang member Markee Carter, whose ex-gang name was Keke Loc, gave a presentation just outside the entrance of Death Row.



Photo By Lt. Luna

Kids see Condemned Row

"These guys you see in this picture are all dead," Carter tells them. "They're all under 25 years old," he added.

The boys stared at the photo gallery wide-eyed and silent.

"Here's one of my homeboys who caught a life sentence at 16," said Carter. "This can happen to you, if you follow the wrong crowd."



Photo By Lt. Luna

Ex-gang member and mentor showing the kids pictures of the funerals of gang members

A message from the group sponsor Lt. Rudy Luna to the prisoners of S.Q.U.I.R.E.S:

*"Today you will bridge with the kids, I mean emotionally bridge with them. It is an opportunity to give them a glimpse of their future if they continue to make bad choices in life. These kids come with issues so connecting with them is important. As for the potential team members this is your time to step up and demonstrate your ability to teach."*



Photo By Sgt. Baxter

Romania "Mana" Jaundoo and Lt. Rudy Luna Sponsors of the San Quentin SQUIRES Program



Photo By Lt. Robinson

Carter then showed the boys a picture of all-star football player DeSean Jackson.

"He's from the same neighborhood that I came from. But he didn't follow the crowd. He made something out of his life," Carter said.

The group was taken to one of the worst cell blocks in San Quentin, Badger section. Inmates began yelling profanities and insults to the children. Suddenly, an alarm went off, and the boys were instructed to follow the rules and get down.

"If you end up in prison, these are some of the things you have to adapt to—someone instructing your everyday life," Thomas Winfrey, who has worked with SQUIRES for the past year, told the boys.

"Remember, each of you has a choice in life," said Winfrey.

The tour then went to the prison's Education Building, giving the youngsters the opportunity to discuss some of the problems they have in their lives.

They spoke about their hardships and the obstacles that interfered with their upbringing. The kids were able to talk about absent parents, about drug-using parents, and about parents who were or had been in prison.

# Hitland Concert Rocks The Yard

By San Quentin News Staff

About 1,000 San Quentin prisoners munched on hot dogs, sipped fruit drink and soaked up rap and rock music on the Lower Yard for the 10<sup>th</sup> year, thanks to a group called Hitland Ministry.

"It's a joyous day. It's about being part of a community. It's something to be appreciated. It's been respectful by inmates and officers alike," said Ronnie (Roc) Williams.

As bands played throughout the Saturday morning and well into the afternoon of June 30, on what is dubbed Hotdog Day, a line formed around the outer edges of the yard to get their snacks.

"We have more than 3,000 dedicated volunteers at San Quentin," said Lt. Anderson, the watch commander.



Hitland performers entertaining prisoners

"That's more than all the other prison have put together," he added. "I appreciate the inmate volunteers too. I like to see these peaceful events

it brings joy to the faces of the prisoners. Great job, Hitland."

Inmates got back in line to get seconds, thirds, fourths,

until all the hotdogs were grilled and eaten.

"I arrived here from Tracy State Prison. We never had anything like this at Tracy.



Prisoners enjoying the entertainment

"I'm grateful for the respect that everyone is giving to each other. Thank you, Hitland." — Duane Whaley

"Hitland is doing a wonderful thing; it's really nice to have people love and care for us this way." — David Holt

"These are some good hot dogs, fresh and grilled. I would stand in line again. Thank you, Hitland." — Mike Villanueva

"Hitland showed us this love, so I didn't mind waiting in line so long." — Jim Meinecke

Brandon Dawson and Devon Carter said they just got to San Quentin. They said they never saw anything like this in prison and were appreciative of Hitland.

"This gives me time to socialize with my friends. Hitland shows a lot of love. Just look at this long line!" — Adam Barboza

"This is my fourth time volunteering for Hitland, but my first coming into San Quentin. My other three visits were to the Juvenile Hall. It makes me feel good to give, and in return, I receive friendliness from all the guys. I've been serving the Lord since 1986 and really, everyone is my brother." — Volunteer Bernie Chavez

"It's not about the hot dogs, but about the love of God that comes with it. People say that God works in mysterious ways. What's more mysterious than your heart being embraced by a hot dog, inspiration of music and good fellowship from Hit Land Ministry?" — Darnell Hill

"I'm having a great time and a good conversation with my friend. These are some good hot dogs. What a blessing." — Todd Williams

"I'm just enjoying the music and good company. Thank you, Hitland, for the hot dogs. Thank you for all your support." — Little Bear



Hitland crew serving hot dogs and drinks on the Lower Yard

I think it's a blessing that the nice people come in here to feed us. It releases a lot of stress, promotes unity among inmates and people on the outside. These kind of events make me feel like I'm not in prison and instead at home," said Ivan Serrano.

Robert Cole added, "I just recently arrived here from Solano State Prison. This is a humbling experience and I am very grateful. I'm thankful Hitland Ministries is showing the love of God to a convicted criminal like me."

"Hitland is a wonderful event and they're well organized and I commend all the staff and the organization for putting such a great event," commented Steve Emrick, community partnership manager

## HERE IS WHAT THE MEN OF SAN QUENTIN HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE CONCERT:

"The hot dogs are good. I've been in prison over 40 years and never seen this done anywhere else. Thank you Hitland." — Joe Ybarra

"I just got here Thursday. Man, this is the craziest thing I've ever seen. I wish they would do this in every prison; it would really build up the morale." — Danny Stevens

"This is my third time in line I just got here Thursday. I really like the atmosphere. It's my first time ever experiencing this kind of love." — Ronald Hill



Brad Walker, Founder of Hitland Ministries

"This is really a special thanks to Hitland. The music was very entertaining. People were respectful." — Cornelius Wigfall

"Praise God for the opportunity to share this special day with the brothers and all the other volunteers with us." — Tim Warren, community volunteer.

"It's a perfect day for this; no doubt about it." — John Nebelett

"It's a good day to have everybody come together and see God in the people who are serving." — Mike Tyler

"I'm very excited about the event. The men are encouraged, seeing that God cares." — Jeannie Wilson, courageworldwide.org

"I love coming to these events and serving alongside everyone to share the love of Christ." — Carlyn Garder, community volunteer.

"I've been in prison 30 years. It's finally good to see authentic smiles on thousands of faces." — Conley Dukes

"I'm very pleased how the day went and hopefully everyone received the good message." — Walter Spraeka

"I'm impressed; I'm amazed. What a blessing to come out and serve. If I see nothing else, the smiles on the faces says it all." — Rob Bezanson, community volunteer

Photos By E. (Phil) Phillips

## SPORTS



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Lt. Rudy Luna (left) with the Boston Red Sox teammates

## Boston Red Sox Players Visit S.Q.

By Gary "Malachi" Scott  
Sports Editor

Boston Red Sox players visiting San Quentin stressed the importance of communication, practice, and learning how to face adverse situations on the field.

"Communication is the number one thing in anything that you do. If you don't have communication as a team, everything crumbles," pitcher Rich Hill said in an interview.

World Series winner Josh Beckett discussed dealing with adversity. "I think a lot of it is slowing it down and not making emotionally based decisions," he said. "Slowing the game down, and working with sports psychologists."

John Lackey urged the San Quentin Giants and Athletics to fine-tune their skills. "It's all about repetition; the more you do something, the better you get at it. It takes a lot of years of practice," Lackey said.

Beckett won the 2003 World Series MVP award with the Florida Marlins. He won the 2007 American League Championship Series MVP award with the Red Sox, going on to defeat the Colorado Rockies in the World Series.

Beckett's career statistics includes a 129-88 win-loss record, a 3.87 earned-run average and 1,686 strikeouts through July 6, 2012.

Beckett and the Red Sox agreed to a four-year, \$68 million contract extension on April 5, 2010.

The Anaheim Angels drafted Lackey in 1999. In his first season in the majors, he contributed to the franchise's first World Series title in 2002 against the San Francisco Giants. Lackey is only the second rookie in World Series history to start and win a Game 7. His ERA led the American League in 2007 and he made the All-Star team for the first time. Lackey signed a five-year contract worth \$82.5 million on Dec. 16, 2009.

Hill's pitching record is 23-20 with a 4.66 ERA and 381 strikeouts through July 4, 2012.

When Hill was with the Cubs, catcher Michael Barrett

described Hill's curveball as "so electric that the first couple of times I caught him, I had a tendency to come up on the curve because it bites so much. You just don't see a left-handed curveball like that anymore. When he's good, it doesn't hang, and it's nearly unhittable."

The Red Sox signed Hill to a minor-league contract last December.

The Boston Red Sox head physical therapist as well as pitcher, Mark Melancon, also visited San Quentin.

*—Journalism Guild Chair Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.*



Josh Beckett

Official Photo

# S.Q.'s Field of Dreams Inspires Introspection

By THOMAS WINFREY  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's lower yard is named the Field of Dreams. Some might see it as a Field of Broken Dreams, to steal a look into the life of some men at the prison; but baseball coach Frankie Smith doesn't see it that way.

The various trials and tribulations of life have led many people to this field, but perhaps no one more interesting than Smith. Although his life is peppered with heartbreaking tragedies, it also glistens with moments of great triumph.

Growing up in Sacramento, Smith's Nono (Italian for grandpa) was his biggest inspiration and fan. Nono pushed Smith to play sports and he responded by playing baseball with a passion — wanting to make it to the major leagues.

Smith never made it to the majors; but he thrived at Sacramento City College and the City Recreation League's Lumber Company team.

Life caught up with Smith as a tough divorce and alcoholism drove him to prison for second-degree murder. Alcoholism, he says, cost him his moral compass.

As soon as he got to San Quentin, seven years ago, he started attending self-help groups to right the course of his life.

Now, 10 years into his sentence, Smith doesn't blame his position in life on the mistakes of his past. Instead, he says, "alcoholism may have led me to prison, but I take ultimate responsibility for what I've done."

But tragedy struck Smith again in 2006 when he was benched by cancer, causing him to lose his right kidney. Last year, he was sidelined with cancer to his



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

San Quentin Giant Frankie Smith

mouth. Smith now realizes how fragile life can be.

After surviving his two bouts with cancer, Smith made his way back to The Field of Dreams, returning to his coaching position this year.

Smith believes in owning up to mistakes in order to learn, grow, and move ahead in life — a philosophy that translates well into his style of coaching. Smith tells his players to take ownership of their errors and make the necessary adjustments to play better.

Despite his downturns in life, many know him as one of the more positive men in San Quentin.

Smith wishes "to be free with his family again, and be a productive member of society," he says, adding, "I love my children. I regret that I left them at the time they needed me the most."

The Field of Dreams may not be a place where Smith can be free with his family again, but the rest of his dream about being a productive member of society is playing out there.

Smith is what the Field of Dreams is all about — a place where you can still be a winner, even in prison.

Smith says, "Quitters don't win, and winners don't quit." Smith is not a quitter.

## Runners Compete in One-Hour Race

OLDER RUNNERS SHOW THEY ARE STILL A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

By Miguel Quezada  
Journalism Guild Writer

Twenty-one men ran around the San Quentin Lower Yard, competing for who could cover the greatest distance in one hour.

First place went to Eddie Herena, 29, who ran 8.75 miles in the 1,000-Mile Club event on July 6. His average time was 6:51 per mile.

On what began as an overcast day, Malcolm Williams and Ricky Dotson led the pack for the first half of the race. Herena and Lorenzo Hopson overtook them in the second half.

"I feel good," said Herena after the race. "This run boosted my confidence. I had

to take some time off to recover from injuries, but I feel strong now."

Hopson, 58, finished second. He ran 8.625 miles, averaging 6:57 per mile.

"I usually train by running 60-70 miles per week," Hopson said. "In the last six months, I've logged in about 1,300 miles, including 228 miles in a one-month period."

Ricky Dotson, 54, placed third with 8.625 miles. Stephen Yair Liebb, 56, placed fourth with 8.625 miles.

Laura Bowmen-Salzsieder was honored prior to the run. Bowmen-Salzsieder said she organized the club seven years ago as a way to promote good health for inmates.

"The men motivate each other and help pick each other up," she said.

Coach Frank Ruona was also honored with a certificate of appreciation. "Running is mentally and physically beneficial," he said. "Being part of a club promotes unity amongst the members and the trainers."

The club facilitators said new members are welcomed to come out, run, and have fun.

The 1,000-Mile Club is scheduled to have a 52-lap half-marathon event in August. Members said all are welcomed to participate, "so get your running shoes ready."

*—David Bennett contributed to this story.*

# Priest's Book Promotes Redemption From Gangs

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Twenty years ago, Father Gregory Boyle was assigned to a job no one wanted — ministering in the gang-infested neighborhoods of Los Angeles, long thought by many authorities to be beyond redemption.

His new memoir, *Tattoos on the Heart-The Power of Boundless Compassion*, tells the story of a man who does more than just reform gangbangers by providing them with jobs, social services and respect. He intercedes into the lives of the most unwanted, changing how these youngsters view everything around them, including themselves.

Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, transformed himself into a trusted facilitator of hope. "You stand with the least likely to succeed until success is succeeded by something more valuable: kinship," writes Boyle,

a Jesuit priest. "We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away."

Never wavering in his faith, Boyle says, "Resilience is born by grounding yourself in your own loveliness, hitting notes you thought were out of your range. We must do the slow work of God."

## What if a gang member had actually been parented?

*Tattoos on the Heart* was a Los Angeles Times best seller and winner of the 2010 SCIBA Book Award for Nonfiction and was named by Publishers Weekly among the Best Books of 2010.

Boyle doesn't minimize the violence associated with gang

life. "I used to tell homies that one of the reasons they continued to gangbang was they were never around to hear a mother scream when she heard her son was dead."

"Sometimes, you just can't think of much else to do but shake your fist and get red in the face," he writes.

Faced with the tragic paths taken by many involved in gangs, Boyle wonders about the "what ifs." What if a gang member had actually been parented? What if he just had a stable place to rest his head? But regardless of their pasts, Boyle doesn't think their fates are sealed. His energy in *Tattoos on the Heart* is focused on letting gang members know that transformation is available for them.

"Sometimes you need to walk in the gang member's door, in order to introduce him to a brand-new door," he writes. "You grab what he finds valuable and bend it around something else, a new



Father Boyle

Official Photo

form of nobility. You try to locate his moral code and conform it to a new standard that no longer includes violence and the harboring of enemies."

Boyle said he believes the most marginalized people in society are the most critical ones to help. "Only when we can see a community where the outcast is valued and appreciated will we abandon the values that seek to exclude," he writes.

He insists no one is beyond hope or help. Quoting philosopher Mary Oliver, Boyle writes, "There are things you can't reach. But you can reach out to them, all day long."

# Electronic Monitoring For Gang Member Parolees

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

With more than 420,000 gang members estimated in California, corrections officials are teaming up with a GPS monitoring company to launch a pilot study for tracking those considered most dangerous after they are released from prison.

The California Department of Justice estimates that approximately 25,000 parolees have special conditions of court-ordered parole after serving a determinate sentence, because of gang activities. Some 6,500 to 7,500 of the parolees may be classified as high-risk gang offenders, the state estimates.

The department alleges that many of these high-risk gang members are responsible for crimes including murder, witness intimidation, money laundering, extortion, narcotic production and sales, prostitution, human trafficking, assassinations for hire, theft and counterfeiting.

Despite the increasing popularity of electronic monitoring systems, the study proposal says little is known about their effectiveness in reducing the recidivism of gang members or their use as an investigative and prosecutorial tool.

The new study will determine the effectiveness of the monitoring program for high-risk gang offenders over a four-year period.

The mandatory monitoring program includes intensive supervision and a monitoring device. The device will track the precise location of parolees and link the data to the location and time of reported crime incidents, as well as verify that the individuals are where they are supposed to be.

Notifications of any intersection of a parolee with a crime incident, zone violation, or tampering with the device are electronically sent to the appropriate police or corrections agency.

# Leadership Development Course Awards Diplomas in Theology

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Eight San Quentin prisoners received Christian leadership diplomas from the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in June graduation ceremonies featuring full academic regalia for the teachers and caps and gowns for the students.

"We are not just training you for when you get out, but to lead the kingdom of God where you are," Seminary President Dr. Jeff P. Iorg told the graduates. "No matter your circumstances, find a way to advance the kingdom of God. Stay obedient, share the Gospel, teach the Bible, model the life of Jesus Christ."

It was the fifth year the seminary has offered prisoners training through the



Graduates and faculty of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

Contextualized Leadership Development program.

Earning the CLD Diploma in Theology was Robert But-

ler. CLD Diplomas in Christian Ministries were presented to James Bennett, Ryan Crainshaw, William Dew,

Darnell Hill, Anthony Parker and Dennis Pratt. Earning both diplomas was Jonathan Cope.

# L.A. County Jail Population Expected to Increase by Thousands

STUDY RECOMMENDS EARLY RELEASE OF THOSE WHO POSE NO THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Los Angeles County Jail population is expected to increase by about 7,000 over the next two years, and peak to about 21,000 by the end of 2013, according to a new report analyzing county jail intake numbers and its impact on offenders shifted from state to county lockups.

The report says without the shifted offenders, the jail population would have likely remained at the 14,000 – 15,000 level.

The report by the JFA Institute suggests that the sheriff's department could bring down its jail population by about 3,000 by releasing detainees who pose no threat to public safety while awaiting trial. In addition, implementing a

comprehensive re-entry program, where sentence reductions were given to inmates who participate in programs designed to keep them from returning to jail, would help lower the population.

The report says about 1,500 beds could be added to the jail system, if the sheriff's department takes control of some county conservation camps.

The report says the Central Jail can be closed within two years if the jail population is reduced by 3,000 and 1,500 beds are added.

There has been a dramatic decline in the crime rate of California counties since 2000, and it is projected that the crime rate will remain low, according to the study.

Consistent with the reported crime trends, the study finds

there has been a decline in jail bookings. In 1990 there were 260,795 bookings. In 2000, the numbers fell to 162,406. In 2011, it had dropped to 142,862.

The study says offenders diverted to the county jails as a result of the state's realignment strategy will have no impact on the level of bookings and releases in Los Angeles.

# Prison Realignment Creates Challenges for Counties

By San Quentin News Staff

California's prisoner realignment plan is generating problems in many counties that will affect each of the 58 counties, says a new study by the Americans Civil Liberty Union analyzing California's solution to its overcrowded prisons.

Realignment is Gov. Jerry Brown's response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision ordering the state to fix its unconstitutional medical care delivery system to prisoners by reducing its inmate population. The population is ordered to be at 137.5 percent of design capacity by June 2013.

The state's blueprint to meet the court order says it can only get to 141 percent by 2013, and will ask the court to allow it to stay at 145 percent.

Some counties are experiencing overcrowded jails, and a need for increased drug treat-

ment and rehabilitation programs, according to a separate report by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. That report says, "The state must continue to reduce its prison population and provide adequate conditions of care to its reduced, older, and more medically demanding population."

The ACLU report comments: "Counties that have chosen a path of jail expansion—as many of the Big 25 county realignment plans indicate they have—are trying to solve the wrong problem. They seek to absorb the realigned population without changing their local approaches to public safety. Left unchecked, these counties will build larger jail systems that will cost more tax dollars than they do now and hold more people than they do now."

In yet another report, the Public Policy Institute of California points out that as of Feb-

ruary, 17 counties were operating under court orders limiting the number of detainees in their jails.

"I fear that we are likely to see a great deal more transfer of incarceration from prison to jail, but I think that will only delay slightly the day of reckoning for our over-reliance on incarceration," warns Jonathon Simon, UC Berkeley law professor.

The ACLU report says realignment encourages counties to use alternative to incarceration and to use evidence-based methods to achieve a safer community. However, the report comments that there is no way to determine if the realignment plan is meeting its goals because the law doesn't tell the counties how to spend the money, nor does it ask the counties how the money was spent.

"The criminal justice system selectively incarcerates to deal

with mental health, drug abuse, and economic and social problems that can never be solved simply by locking more people behind bars," says the ACLU report.

The reports note the state prison population is rapidly decreasing according to the blueprint; however, each report cautions policy makers about tracking and accounting for the effectiveness of county plans and how to fund the plans.

"Jail costs will expand rapidly as their mission moves closer to the prison and the surplus in space will be short-lived," said Simon. "Health costs which threaten to overwhelm the system will not necessarily be lower in jails than in prison, especially if custody lasts years."

The Public Policy Institute of California comments: "County officials might respond to the incentives introduced by realignment by altering their

approach to prosecution and sentencing. In marginal cases, district attorneys may opt for more serious charges (known as 'up-charging') in hopes of sending offenders to prison instead of county jail. Similarly, prosecutors may decide to charge rearrested parolees with new crimes rather than just technical violations of parole. These tendencies would likely increase prison commitment rates over time. Alternatively, judges may opt for lighter sentences or split sentences that keep offenders in local custody for less time."

On the same topic, The Economist magazine reports: "A new question is whether realignment is merely shifting a humanitarian disaster from the state to its 58 counties. The reform will work in the long run only if the overall number of people behind bars in California declines."

ing to a report by Prison Policy Initiative.

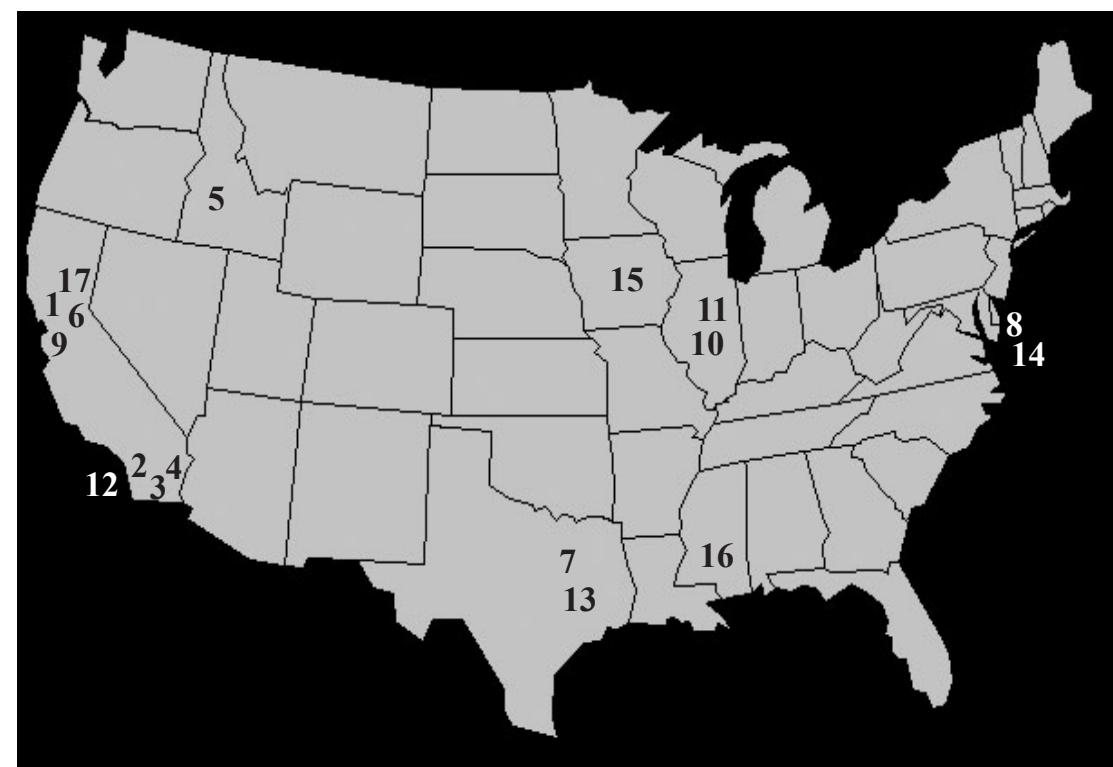
**15. IOWA CITY, Iowa**—The state's process for restoring voting rights for ex-felons is one of the most stringent in the nation, according to a review by the Associated Press. Iowa is one of four states where ex-felons must apply to the governor to regain their rights. Nearly 8,000 ex-offenders have applied for restoration of their rights after completing their prison sentences or were released from community supervision; however, less than a dozen were approved, according to public records obtained by the AP.

**16. TUPELO, Miss.**—A grocery store butcher was executed June 20 for murdering a man he owed money for drugs, Reuters reported. Gary Carl Simmons, 49, was the 22nd person executed in the United States this year. He was the third person executed in Mississippi in June and the sixth in 2012.

**17. SACRAMENTO**—Gov. Jerry Brown has announced the appointment of wardens for two California prisons. Paul Brazelton, 49, of Coalinga, was appointed warden at Pleasant Valley State Prison. He has also worked at Calipatria State Prison and Deuel Vocational Institution. Daniel Paramo, 51, of San Diego, was appointed warden at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility. He worked previously at Centinela State Prison and Calipatria State Prison. The positions do not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$130,668. Paramo is a Democrat and Brazelton is a Republican.

**ENGLAND**—A new study has found that men confined behind bars are less likely to be obese than people in the general population. Female prisoners, however, were more likely to be obese than other women — at least, in the U.S. and Australia, the study found.

## News Briefs



prisoners real-world business skills so they may become productive members of the business community upon their release. Sixty-four men received graduation certificates in a cap and gown ceremony.

**8. WASHINGTON**—Violent crime was down four percent nationwide last year, according to reports law enforcement agencies across the country voluntarily submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Violent crime includes murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault, said the FBI. In the same period, property crimes dropped 0.8 percent, the FBI said.

**9. SAN FRANCISCO**—There were fewer major crimes reported last year than in 2010 in the 13 most-populous cities in the San Francisco Bay Area, according to figures released by the FBI. The major crimes included murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

**10. SPRINGFIELD, Ill.**—The governor's office has confirmed plans to close the super-maximum prison near Tamms in southern Illinois, the Dwight Correctional Center in central Illinois, along with juvenile justice centers in Joliet and Murphysboro. Three transitional centers for prisoners, including one on Chicago's West Side, are also being shut down.

Declines of more than 20 percent were reported for Fremont, Concord and Daly City.

**11. SPRINGFIELD, Ill.**—Gov. Pat Quinn approved resumption of the early release of inmates from the state's overcrowded prisons, according to the Associated Press. However, the offender must be nonviolent, display good behavior and serve at least 60 days in the Corrections Department, the AP reports.

**12. SAN DIEGO**—Last year's new law that shifted low-level offenders to do their time

in county jails has caused San Diego County jails to become overcrowded, county officials report. They said they responded by releasing about 300 low-level offenders, putting them on home detention and keeping track of them with electronic monitors.

**13. AUSTIN, Texas**—Prison officials made known that their supply of execution injection drugs (Nembutal, a trade name for pentobarbital) were obtained legally and in the U.S., according to the United Press International.

**14. WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a Maryland law counting inmates as residents of their legal home addresses for redistricting purposes. The legislation is the state's solution to how inmates are counted as residents of the prison location, even though they cannot vote and remain residents of their home communities for virtually all other legal purposes, accord-

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

Farmer Grubb was asked how many rabbits and chickens he had in his yard. He replied, "Between the two there are 60 eyes and 86 feet."

Although the reply was not exactly responsive, can you determine how many chickens and rabbits Farmer Grubb had?



The answer to last months puzzle is: the Yolas family has 7 siblings, 4 boys and 3 girls.

Congratulations to: Webster Vang and Peter Chhem for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Kevin Alexander, Bernie Castro, Anthony Gallo, Tommy Martinez, William Robinson, Chris Schuhmacher, Mark Tedeschi, Troy Thompson, Mike Tyler, Allen Webb and David Westerfield for correctly answering the puzzle. Last months winners were drawn from a hat.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

## POETRY

### UPS & DOWNS

By Henry Cartwright

"UPS & DOWNS"...smiles and frowns  
Are ways to everyday life,  
No one said it would be easy, but we must continue to  
strive  
So I wake up each day that is not "promised"  
To me, with a "smile" upon my face  
Cause I know I am only "alive" thru God's Merciful grace  
Therefore...I "pray" daily and know that my lord & savior  
is in control,  
And I ask in him thru my "ups & downs"..."  
To give me the strength and keep me whole

## VETERANS DONATIONS

The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin is asking for donations of used stamps and soda can tabs for a charitable cause.

Collection receptacles are located in each housing unit for this purpose. Used stamps are sent to the Wounded Warrior Program at Walter Reed Hospital, where wounded veterans work on developing eye and hand coordination by peeling the used stamps off of the corners of the envelopes.

Used soda tabs are donated to the Ronald McDonald Foundation, where they are converted into cash funds that help pay for the medical treatment and housing of children whose families are not able to fully cover their medical bills.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Snippets

Frederick the Great, king of Prussia, once ordered his subjects to grow potatoes to bring down the cost of bread.

In ancient Egypt, ivory was commonly used as a medium for producing carvings between 4,000 and 3,200 B.C.E.

Records show the Golden Gate Bridge has nearly 1,200,000 rivets holding it together.

Eight yards of material are required to produce one Scottish kilt.

Walruses weigh up to one and a half tons and have blubber 15 centimeters thick, protecting them from the cold.

Of the more than 40,000 varieties of rice found in the world, only 10 percent are sold.

Roughly 20,000 workers labored for 22 years to construct the Taj Mahal. Some came from as far away as Turkey.

Kitchen sponges and dish cloths provide all the nutrients necessary for dangerous bacteria to flourish in our homes. E. Coli, Staphylococcus and Salmonella are among the worst of them.

Star sapphires contain intersecting inclusions that create the appearance of a six-pointed star when observed under a single overhead light source. Twelve-pointed stars, also known to exist, are not as common.



### Book Review

By Randy Maluenda

**WORTH DYING FOR** (By Lee Child)  
Jack Reacher at his very best battling an abusive Nebraska town, with many twists and turns along the way.



**PAGING APHRODITE** (By Kim Green)  
Four unlucky women converge on a Greek island to reboot their floundering lives, with wary optimism.



**ROYAL BABYLON** (By Karl Shaw)  
Shocking, yet hilarious, tales that help wipe out most of old European monarchies.



**THE WAVE** (By Susan Casey)  
Brisk account of big waves around the world and the surfers who challenge them.



**CAUGHT** (By Harlan Coben)  
It's depressing when an ace TV reporter who sets up perverts targets an innocent man.

### RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of Chad Tobias

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

9	3	8	7	1	5	2	4	6
2	7	1	9	4	6	5	8	3
4	5	6	3	2	8	7	9	1
6	9	3	2	5	7	4	1	8
1	8	7	6	3	4	9	5	2
5	2	4	8	9	1	3	6	7
3	1	5	4	8	2	6	7	9
8	6	9	5	7	3	1	2	4
7	4	2	1	6	9	8	3	5

		9	2			4	5
	9						7
1							8
	3	7		6			5
1							9
6		5		1	2		
	3						7
7						6	
2	8			3	7		

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

There's a wide range of opinions among San Quentin prisoners about how to spend the money in the Inmate Welfare Fund, ranging from educational programs to sports equipment.

Statewide, the fund contains about \$68 million collected from inmates as a 10 percent surcharge on things which prisoners are allowed to buy and sell.

Current state law requires the money be spent to benefit state prison inmates. A bill pending in the Legislature would permit the funds to pay for recreational and educational activities.

Recently 39 mainliners and members of the Prison University Project were asked: "How would you spend San Quentin's share of the money (a little more than \$2 million) if it were equally divided among the 33 prisons?"

Here are the results:

About 46 percent, or 18 of those interviewed, would spend the money to support

educational tools such as books, paper, and supplies to computers, printers and toner.

All six PUP teachers thought IWF funds should be used for educational supplies and support. Some PUP teachers thought education could be improved with additional support for the prison library.

PUP students had similar ideas for spending San Quentin's share of the money.

"I think the money should be used to buy computers and to provide computer literacy classes," said Nate.

Malik said IWF funds should "help fund four-year college programs to help us earn bachelor's degrees."

IWF funds should be used to fund "re-entry" programs, J.W. said. "We need to get re-entry programs, buy computers, and re-establish contacts with the DMV so that when men parole we can get our driver's licenses or permits," he added.

Tommy thought some IWF funds should be used to buy sporting equipment.

Dicky thought that IWF funds would be best spent on things like sports equipment and medicine bags. He thinks it's a good idea to spend some money removing the trailer at the foot of the stairs from the upper yard to provide additional exercise space.

Barries believes that IWF funds should definitely be used to improve cell conditions, like broken bunk springs.

Dex, Richard, and New York said that IWF funds should be used to improve or upgrade the TV system. "We should be able to use our IWF for cable TV service, Comcast, or Direct TV," said Richard.

Some men thought IWF should be used to buy better quality prison clothing like shirts, boxers, and socks in addition to other textiles like towels, sheets, and blankets.

"Even if we don't have enough IWF, we should recycle our cans and use the money to buy some ice machines for the yard," said Gil.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

# San Quentin News

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Adviser.....Joan Lisetor  
Adviser.....Steve McNamara  
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Staff Writer.....R. Lindsey

# Teen Decision First Step

By Gary "Malachi" Scott  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court took a step in the right direction when it outlawed mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole for children below age 18. The *Miller v. Alabama* decision invites a look at other types of cases that would sentence juveniles to die in prison of old age.

The *Miller* decision lessens the possibility that some juveniles will be sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. The court held "that the Eighth Amendment forbids a sentencing scheme that mandates life in prison without possibility of parole for juvenile offenders."

The decision emphasized that children should be treated differently – they and their brains are immature. That same recognition applies to children who

## OPINION

also get life with the possibility of parole.

The difference is minimal between juvenile offenders sentenced to such terms as 60 years to life with the possibility of parole, and life without the possibility of parole.

It is essential that juvenile offenders who have extremely long sentences have a sentencing review. Because men's average life expectancy is about 70 years or so, sentencing youth offenders to 50 to 60 years is almost sentencing them to die in prison.

Even if such an offender is paroled at an advanced age, he or she will have health, employment, housing, and adjustment concerns.

The argument with reference to juvenile immaturity in *Miller* was derived from the 2005 decision, *Roper v. Simmons*.

*Roper* says, "Psychology and brain science continue to show fundamental differences between juvenile and adult minds," making their actions "less likely to be evidence of 'irretrievably depraved character' than are the actions of adults."

Because youth offenders' actions are "less likely to be evidence of 'irretrievably depraved character,'" rehabilitation and a reasonable chance of parole at an age that they can be successfully reintegrated back in society should be the goal for all juveniles sentenced as adults.

—For more on this topic, see the June 5 "Room for Debate" at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com).

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is the only prisoner-produced newspaper in the California prison system and one of the few in the world. Prisoners do the reporting and editing work inside the prison, but they need help paying to have the paper printed.

From its founding in 1940 through 2009 the paper was printed by prisoners in the print shop. But in 2010 the print shop was closed due to statewide cost cutting measures.

Since then the paper has been printed at Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. The cost has been covered by private donations through a non-profit established for that purpose, the Prison Media Project.

Those donations are shrinking and if the paper is to continue, new support is needed. Please go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), to see how you can become a supporter. You get a tax deduction...plus a year's worth of copies of the newspaper mailed to you.

Many thanks from the San Quentin News Staff and Advisers.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

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Prisoners United In The Craft of Journalism

# NASA Partnership With S.Q. Creates Skilled Workers

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

America needs skilled aerospace workers and one San Quentin program is designed to help fill the void, a NASA executive told a prisoners' audience.

Dr. Simon Pete Worden, a retired Air Force general and NASA's Ames Research Center director, addressed nearly 200 San Quentin prisoners to talk about NASA's future and the need for highly skilled workers in the aerospace industry.

In an unorthodox move, Worden has already enlisted men in the prison's vocational machine shop to produce prototype components for satellites.

The partnership began in 2007 when Worden first learned of the advanced machining abilities of the students from the spouse of a guard who worked at the prison.

He had representatives of the agency contact Rich Saenz,

the machine shop's instructor, to propose the idea of having his students fabricate parts for NASA. Saenz told them, "We have every confidence we can build it."

At times, it looked as though the project might fall apart. Bureaucratic roadblocks and strict budgetary constraints of working within the state's beleaguered prison system have caused several problems.

Despite those challenges, Saenz fought to see the project through. In June 2011 NASA and prison officials signed a two-year agreement to fabricate the parts. Since that time, 27 students have received valuable training from NASA.

The students have been fabricating components for a unique satellite deployment device, called a Poly Picosatellite Orbital Deployer (PPOD).

*See NASA on Page 4*

## S.Q. Baseball Season Opener

The San Quentin Athletics outlasted the San Quentin Giants in their much-anticipated season opener before several hundred cheering fans, defeating the Giants 10-7.

After Rueben Harper doubled down the first base line, Blake Carlyle smacked an RBI double to centerfield, breaking a 5-5 tie in the top of the sixth inning. The A's never gave up the lead from that point.

The Giants proceeded to make crucial errors and allowed the A's to steal bases at will. During the sixth inning, the A's stole three bases. The Giants com-

mitted two errors, allowing the A's to increase their lead to 8-5. Isaiah-Bonilla Thomson ripped an RBI double to centerfield to add another run. The top of the sixth ended at a score of 9-5.

The Giants attempted to make a dramatic comeback in the bottom of the eighth inning. Trailing 10-5, Chris Smith delivered a base hit up the middle and Staftont Smith doubled him home to decrease their deficit to 10-6. After two walks and a stolen base, the Giants scored another run off an A's error. They never

*See Opening Day on Page 8*

## Gov. Brown Appoints New Corrections Board

ADDS OVERSIGHT TO BOTH STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

By San Quentin News Staff

A new board has been created to cope with the major changes in the future of California prisons.

Creation of the board is in response to last year's U.S. Supreme Court order forcing California to reduce its overcrowded prison population.

The board will "provide the leadership needed to guide California toward a long-term, strategic, and successful implementation of a cost-effective, evidence-based community corrections system," according to a report outlining the plan.

Gov. Jerry Brown created the Board of State and Community Corrections to replace the



Photo By Sgt. W. Baxter

Members of the Symposium held at the Garden Chapel

## Kid CAT Hosts Symposium Focusing on Youth Problems

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

Creating a collaboration to deal with youth problems inside and outside prison walls was the focus of a recent San Quentin symposium involving criminal

justice experts and youth advocates from across the state.

Hosting the event were members of Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) who were juveniles when they committed their crimes. Attendees of the symposium included State Sen.

*See Focusing on Page 4*



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

The San Quentin Athletics during opening ceremonies

## Study Rebuts Theory Behind Longer Prison Sentences

By Richard Richardson  
Graphics Editor

Locking up non-violent criminals for lengthy prison terms fails to improve public safety, a public-interest research report concludes.

"There is little or no evidence that keeping them [offenders] locked up longer prevents additional crime," according to The Pew Center on the States.

Between 1972 and 2011, the United States enacted numerous laws intended to take criminals off the streets through long-term incarceration. Advocates for that strategy say it would enhance public safety.

During this same period, the U.S. Congress influenced state sentencing policies by tying public safety funding to the Truth-in-Sentencing laws. States could only receive federal grants if prisoners served 80-85 percent of their terms. One result, during the last two decades, was the prison population in the United States rose 700 percent.

*See Ten Board on Page 4*

*See Longer on Page 4*

former Corrections Standards Authority. The new board, however, doesn't look too different from the old board: five of the ten new appointments were members of the CSA, including Los Angeles Sheriff Leroy Baca, Lassen County Sheriff Dean Growdon, and Chief Probation Officer of Fresno County, Linda Penner.

Brown appointed Susan Mauriello, Santa Cruz County administrator and former member of the CSA, as director of the new board. Mauriello is known as an innovator in alternatives to incarceration, according to KPCC public radio. Santa Cruz is one of the counties that have

# Free After 20 Years In Prison

By John C. Eagan  
San Quentin News Adviser

After spending more than 20 years in prison for a crime he insists he didn't commit, Maurice A. Caldwell says, "I want to make sure it doesn't happen to anyone else."

Caldwell, 44, spoke to a group of about 40 residents of The Redwoods, a senior citizen residence in Mill Valley. He was accompanied by Paige Kaneb, an attorney for The Northern California Innocence Project at Santa Clara University School of Law, who helped him gain his freedom.

"If they had used common sense, I wouldn't have gone to prison," Caldwell said.

During his 20 years and six months of incarceration, he said he served time at various prisons, including San Quentin, New Folsom, Old Folsom, Mule Creek and Pleasant Valley.

"I used to be angry every day, but that's what made me fight more," he said. Among numerous letters pleading for help was one to the Innocence Project, which took on the challenge.

Asked about his life now, Caldwell said, "Every day is a struggle. I'm fighting for my humanity." As a free man, he said he's ineligible for the kind of assistance offered to parolees.



Maurice A. Caldwell getting out of prison after 20 years

Caldwell reported he's trying to get money from a state fund which pays wrongly convicted persons \$100 a day for every day in prison. That would total almost \$750,000.

He was convicted in 1991 of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of a man near his apartment in the Alemany housing project in the Bernal Heights neighborhood of San Francisco during a botched drug deal. The key witness against him was a neighbor who initially said he wasn't involved but later identified him as the shooter. The sentence: 27 years to life.

The city honored the witness with a medal, a key to the city, \$1,000 and a trip to Disneyland. She died while Caldwell was imprisoned.

His sentence was tossed out due to incompetent representation (his attorney was subsequently disbarred because of similar problems with other cases), because of failure to question other witnesses who said Caldwell was innocent, because

evidence was destroyed and the key witness was deceased.

Another key element was the Innocence Project found that a man imprisoned in Nevada admitted he was the shooter.

Caldwell walked out of prison a free man on March 28, 2011, into the arms of his sister. His mother and grandmother died while he was locked up.

Kaneb has handled the case since 2008. "Maurice is not only innocent, but a wonderful client and an appreciative person who has kept his faith throughout this whole ordeal," she said in a 2010 interview.

He could have been freed weeks earlier if he had accepted a prosecution deal to plead guilty to reduced charges. "He turned it down right away," said Kaneb. "He made this great statement, on the record actually, that he's been fighting this case for 20 years, and if he were one percent involved he would have taken this deal and walked, but he was 100 percent innocent and wouldn't take the deal."

## Brazilian Prisoners Generate Electricity To Cut Sentences

READING ALSO TRIMS TIME

Kris Himmelberger  
Journalism Guild Writer

A Brazilian prison is taking the idea of good-time credits to another level: prisoners can get days time off their sentences for reading books and for generating electricity for a local community.

After Brazilian Judge Jose Henrique Mallman learned about U.S. gyms using exercise bikes to generate electricity, he used the same concept to power 10 street lamps in Santa Rita do Sapucai, a town close to a prison, reported The Associated Press.

The town's police department's lost and found donated bicycles to Mallman. The stationary bicycles charge car batteries used to power the lights. Inmates earn one day off their sentence for every 24 hours spent peddling, the AP reported.

"We used to spend all day locked up in our cells, only seeing the sun for two hours a day. Now we're out in the fresh air, generating electricity for the town and at the same time we're winning our freedom," said Ronaldo da Silva, a participant serving a 5 1/2-year sentence for robbing a bakery, according to the AP report. He reduced his sentence by 20 days and said in the process he lost nine pounds.

A once-abandoned, dark promenade of Santa Rita do Sapucai is now beaming with activity, AP says. People are jogging, walking their dogs, taking strolls, and kids are riding bicycles.



Prisoners can also reduce their sentence by writing book reports, the AP reported.

The program called, "Redemption through Reading," allows inmates to earn four days off their sentence for every book they read. The program allows inmates to reduce their sentence a maximum of 48 days a year, if they read 12 books.

Brazilian officials say they've received some criticism from the public, saying the initiatives are soft on criminals; however, there's been little complaint in the country's press or in other public forums, the AP reports.

California instituted its own literacy program, in 2011, called the Milestone Credit Initiative. It allows inmates serving sentences for non-violent offenses to earn time off for completing certain educational or rehabilitative programs.

"An inmate can earn up to six weeks off their sentence by passing five GED section tests and earning a GED. Time off their sentence can also be earned for completing a college course," said San Quentin Literacy Coordinator Tom Bolema.

# Death Penalty and Wrongful Executions

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

not guilty, although there was no determination of 'factual innocence' pursuant to California law."

The biggest reason for wrongful convictions is erroneous eyewitness identifications, the report says. That accounted for 80 percent of exonerations, and false confessions were a factor in 15 percent.

## 23 WITH INFORMANTS

California State Public Defender Michael Hersek reported that of 117 death penalty appeals pending in his office, 17 featured testimony by in-custody informants, and another six included testimony by informants who were in constructive custody.

The report recommended steps to reduce the risks of wrongful convictions resulting from erroneous eye witness identifications, false confessions, and testimony by in-custody informants. Those were enacted by the Legislature, but were vetoed by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"A national study of all death penalty sentences imposed from 1973 to 1995 revealed that 82 percent (247 out of 301) of the capital judgments that were reversed and returned for a retrial or a new penalty hearing were replaced with a sentence less than death, or no sentence at all," the commission reported.

It notes that seven percent (22/301) of the reversals for serious error resulted in a determination on retrial that the defendant was not guilty of the capital offense.

## Jurors' Mixed Views About Capital Punishment Focus of High Court Ruling

Jurors cannot be excluded from death penalty trials because they have mixed views about capital punishment, the California Supreme Court has ruled.

The court voted unanimously that a prospective juror was improperly dismissed because of her conflicting views in a written questionnaire on the death penalty.

In its ruling July 16, the high court upheld John Riccardi's murder conviction. It will be up to the California attorney general to decide whether to hold another penalty trial, or whether he will be sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

A similar juror issue is raised in several other Death Row inmates' appeals, including Scott Peterson.

In 1984, a narrowly divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled that reversal of the death penalty is automatic when potential jurors are dismissed because of

their written answers to questions about their views on capital punishment.

"I'm afraid I could not feel right in imposing the death penalty on someone even though I feel it is necessary under some circumstances," the prospective juror wrote.

Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye wrote that the trial court judge should have questioned her more instead of dismissing her. The ruling "compels the reversal of the penalty phase without any inquiry as to whether the error actually" led to an unfair trial. She wrote a separate opinion to urge the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider the automatic reversal in such cases.

Cliff Garner, Peterson's attorney, argued in his appeal that the mistake occurred in his trial and can be the basis of appeals of a few other Death Row inmates.

—Charles David Henry

# After Serving Over 24 Years Behind Bars Henry 'MC' Montgomery Makes it Home

By Gary Scott, Sports Writer

Self-help groups have been important instruments for helping Henry "MC" Montgomery become a better human being, he said, as he rejoins society after 24 years in prison. They helped him overcome his life's hardships.

Looking forward to freedom, he said to those he left behind, "I will be representing you guys in prison, and I will be letting the world know that there are many more guys that have been doing the work that will be behind me. And I am sure that they will be doing bigger things than I am doing."

After serving all those years in prison for second-degree murder and assault, he is paroling to Options transitional facility. He said he has an immediate job offer to work with at-risk youth. He also said that his first music venture will be making a pop album.

"The first 10 years were extremely rough, stressful, lonely, and hopeless," Montgomery said. "I watched a lot of violence and suffering, went through a lot of violence and suffering. As time went on, I developed more anger than what I had before I came in. The horrible experiences were making me better. But I didn't know that at the time. Now that I reflect back, I can see it clearly; those experiences were needed to make me into who I am today."

"It took a particular incident where I over-reacted that showed me that I had an anger problem I needed to work on. This led me down the path of reading books on spirituality, meditation, and self-help," he said.



Henry "MC" Montgomery at Avon Breast Cancer Walk

Montgomery pointed to numerous self-help groups for enlightenment and change. "I started involving myself in groups such as anger management, Non-Violent Communication, Conflict Resolution, Community Impact, etc. After years of study, I finally started to internalize the tools and eventually learned to use them in potential troublesome situations," he explained.

He described his troublesome childhood: "I wasn't really a bad person growing up, I grew up watching my mom being abused..."

My mother got beat with a billy club by an L.A. policeman; I remember that like it was yesterday. As a teenager, I began being attacked by Crips and Bloods."

He also mentioned the good times of his life, expressing how he and his uncle formed dance groups and rode motorcycles together. He said before his incarceration he was enrolled in a class called California Impact, training to retake a test to join the military. "The real reason I wanted to join the service was not to make myself a better life; it was actually to escape my life in Los Angeles because I feared that I would be killed," he said.

Montgomery described his early introduction to hip-hop: "In elementary school I used to be in the back of class making beats. I would dance in my room for hours trying to mimic the guys I saw at dance parties. I started a group in 1983 called Erotic Freak Daddy's at World on Wheels in L.A. I was with my uncle when he danced for Ice-T."

He said that he started rapping in the Los Angeles County Jail, where he got into a rap battle with a gang member and came out victorious. "That victory made me think that I was pretty good at rapping. I used my rapping skills to keep the gangs off of me, which eventually led them to embrace me," he added.

As for the men he's leaving behind, Montgomery has this advice: "Keep yourself clean, because the biggest prize is freedom. Join groups, internalize what you learn in the groups, and put what you learn to practice."

-Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story

## Releasing Older Prisoners Would Save Money

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

With an increasingly aging prison population in the United States, a new report says it would be less costly to release elderly prisoners who are no longer a danger to public safety.

There has been overwhelming evidence showing that prisoners age 50 and older are far less likely to commit new crimes, according to the report released by the American Civil Liberties Union.

### RESEARCH SHOWS

The report also states that research conclusively shows that arrest rates drop to just over two percent at age 50 and almost zero percent by age 65.

The aging epidemic is the result of various federal and

state "tough on crime" laws and provisions from the mid-1970s through the 1990s, such as "mandatory minimum" sentences, the "war on drugs," and "three-strikes-and-you're-out," as well as restrictions on parole that were enacted during those years.

### 20 YEARS OR MORE

Many of those affected would have been sentenced to much shorter periods for their crimes prior to 1979, the report concludes. Instead, they received sentences of 20 years or more.

State corrections spending grew by more than 674 percent over the last 25 years, becoming the fourth largest category of state spending, the report says. The costs are mainly spent on incarceration, including incarceration of aging prisoners.

Nationally, the report says it costs approximately \$68,270 per year per aging prisoner. That cost is double the \$34,135 per year for the average prisoner in all states and about \$30,000 more than the average American household income. The California average is about \$50,000 for most prisoners.

The report estimates there are approximately 246,600 aging and elderly prisoners in the United States, making up 16 percent of the prison population nationwide. That number is expected to increase by 4,400 percent from 1981 to 2030 for prisoners age 55 and older.

### HIGHER PERCENTAGE

The largest segment of aging prisoners is white, at 42 percent. However, African-

American and Hispanic prisoners make up a much higher percentage of aging prisoners than they do the general population, at 33 percent for blacks and 15 percent for Hispanics.

California leads the nation with about 27,680 prisoners 50 or older, the report says, with the majority in prison for low-level, nonviolent crimes.

### SHORT-TERM CHANGES

The ACLU report also recommends a number of short-term changes to begin addressing the problem, including:

- Granting conditional release to aging prisoners who pose little safety risk.
- Utilizing and expanding existing medical parole laws and provisions.
- Increasing accountability and transparency of parole boards and encouraging

the boards to utilize existing age-based and medical-based release programs.

The report also proposes doing away with the "lock 'em up and throw away the key" policies and recommends such long-term systemic reforms as:

- Repeal laws mandating a minimum sentence, which prevent judges from tailoring punishments to individual cases.
- Give crime-appropriate sentences, rather than life sentences, to repeat offenders who commit multiple low-level, non-violent crimes.
- Repeat laws that eliminate good-time credits, which result in inmates serving longer sentences. Good-time credits are awarded for good behavior and completing positive programs.

## Seven Ways State Prison System Can Save Money

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

California has tremendous potential to save money by revamping its prison system, says a college professor in a Los Angeles Times column.

"We need the political will to pursue proven measures and to counter fear-based rhetoric," wrote Barry Krisberg, research and policy director at UC Berkeley's law school.

With budget woes a huge concern for many Californians, Krisberg says there are several policy choices that would ease spending without jeopardizing public safety.

- releasing low-risk inmates
- allowing low-level offenders to do their sentences in local jails instead of state prison
- revising the way low-level offenders are assessed so that they would qualify for county

jail time instead of state prison

- give low-risk offenders with dependent children the opportunity to serve their sentence in a halfway house
- commuting "holds" on illegal immigrants
- modest reform of the three-strikes law
- investment in evidence-based rehabilitation programs
- California's policy makers have already begun to have

some success in reforming its prison system, says Krisberg. The state has reduced the prison population by 20,000 so far through prison realignment, "without a detectable decrease in public safety."

"Legislative leaders have pledged to examine all options to avert further crippling reductions in state funding for higher education, the court system and social support for poor and vulnerable families. They should

be looking at the state criminal justice system; there are savings that could help us avoid harsher cuts," Krisberg wrote.

"Plans for prison expansion have been halted, and plans for prison closures have begun. The governor has proposed ending the practice of sending California prisoners to private prisons in other states, and he has explored new rules to reduce corrections department staffing," he added.

# California Schools Struggling to Help Students

## LAYOFFS, LARGER CLASS SIZES AND FEWER INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS ADDING STRESS

By San Quentin News Staff

A new report says 6.2 million K-12 students in California's 30 largest school districts may not reach their full academic potential. Contributing factors to the problem are teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, fewer instructional days, fewer counselors, cutbacks in summer school, declining enrollments, increasing childhood poverty, and high unemployment.

"The number and intensity of internal and external stress factors on California schools and school districts are on the rise as a result of state budget defi-

cits and the nation's struggling economy," says the research organization Edsource in a report titled *Schools Under Stress: Pressures Mount on California's Largest School Districts*.

Even before the Great Recession, California was spending less per student than the national average, according to the California Budget Project. In 2001-02, California spent \$691 less per student than the national average. By 2010-11, the gap had grown to \$2,856.

Making matters worse is the dysfunctional school finance system, shaped partly by Proposition 13, passed in 1978. One

result of Proposition 13 was shifting public schools financing from local communities to the state. It also made it tougher for local school districts to raise revenues, according to Edsource.

Gov. Jerry Brown's solution is to ask voters to increase the sales tax by a quarter-cent on the dollar and to raise income taxes on individuals making more than \$250,000 a year, according to the Sacramento Bee. The ballot measure, Proposition 30, will be decided this November.

A different plan on the ballot, Proposition 38, "would provide seven times more to the schools than Gov. Brown's plan," ac-

cording to the measure's author, Molly Munger.

"Sacramento will be kept out of the loop by putting the money in a trust fund that automatically goes to the school districts on a per-child basis," Munger said on the NBC television show *Class Action*.

She said it is not necessary to choose between the two plans. Voting yes on both propositions would require the one gathering the most votes to be employed.

Munger said her plan has the support of the 900,000-member PTA.

"California must move to relieve its schools of some of the

stresses that threaten to smoother their attempts to help children succeed. If it is unable to do so, the academic gains California schools and students have been striving for the past two decades will become an even more elusive target. In addition, major new reforms, such as the Common Core State Standards, new accountability measures, and linking school-work more closely to student careers, will be far more difficult to implement," concludes Edsource.

Proposition 38's details can be found at [ourchildrenourfuture2012.com](http://ourchildrenourfuture2012.com).

## NASA Partnership Trains S.Q. Inmates

Continued from Page 1

Although the parts fabricated by the prisoners are only prototypes, and not yet slated for use, Worden hopes to one day see them used in space.

Worden and Saenz share a philosophy of preparing incarcerated men to find meaningful jobs after they parole.

"Our primary purpose is to prepare people to work in the industry," said Worden. "My commitment is to help people find jobs."

Worden envisions connecting inmates with private companies which would hire them after parole. He even said that some industry leaders have shown an interest in hiring ex-offenders.

Saenz said he works closely with Bay Area colleges and

businesses to find placement on the outside for his students, many of whom report to him with stories of their successes.

Noting the antiquity of many of the shop's machines and a dire need for newer technology, Saenz said, "If we had updated equipment and material, we could do a lot more."

Saenz's students have fabricated items for such diverse projects as the State Fair, Marine Mammal Center, the National Parks Service and San Francisco's Exploratorium.

"This shop continues to grow and deliver top-quality projects," said leadman Duane Butler. He commented that his fellow students are men who are committed to becoming productive citizens.



Photo By Sgt. W. Baxter

Senator Leland Yee sitting with Kid Cat members

## Focusing on Juvenile Violence

Continued from Page 1

Budnick, and other concerned citizens.

The Kid CAT men shared their crime impact statements — a collaborative interweaving of each of their stories retelling the day of their crimes — focusing on the day of the offense, the crime itself, and the events that led up to it.

"It is apparent that the men in Kid CAT have done their personal work," said Sister Jabro, who organized the symposium. "The respect given to their victims truly is restorative justice in action."

Gathering into breakout groups, Kid CAT members described the origin of the group,

the projects they completed, the projects they're working on, and Individual turning points.

***"It's apparent that men in Kid Cat have done their personal work."***

"We believe Kid CAT is capable of starting the movement and carrying it forward on behalf of all youth receiving life sentences," said Sister Jabro.

Calvin, a supporter of juvenile justice reform, said the mission statement of Kid CAT impressed her: *To inspire humanity through*

## Ten Board Members Appointed by Brown

MANY MEMBERS SERVED ON THE OLD BOARD

Continued from Page 1

most fully embraced prison realignment, KPCC reports.

The CSA made the following recommendations to the BSCC in a report titled Implementation Recommendations: Report to the Board of State and Community Corrections:

Create quality community-based services and strategies for juveniles and adults to achieve public safety by reducing the number of people that are incarcerated, reducing recidivism and reducing the overall long-term costs of the justice system.

Create a statewide repository for standardized outcome-based community corrections program data collection and reporting, including program descriptions, outcomes, evaluations, costs and cost effectiveness.

Encourage and support funding mechanisms and guidelines that create successful perfor-

mance-based programs with accountability.

Develop a uniform risk and needs assessment approach for all communities.

Design and implement a sustainable financial and organizational structure, appropriate staffing and budget for the BSCC to assure the agency can meet its goals.

The report concludes: "The current effort represents the beginning of the sea (of) change that will reform California's juvenile and adult correctional systems. It is not the end. There are still many interrelated and complex problems to be addressed. The newly created Board of State and Community Corrections is in a key position to implement the necessary changes to achieve the highest standards of public safety using cost effective, evidence-based methods at the community corrections level."

Darrell Steinberg as saying, "We need to do a better job of distinguishing between violent offenders who should be in state prison for a long time to protect the public, and those who can serve their sentences in ways that are frankly less expensive to the taxpayer and consistent with public safety."

Nearly 90 percent of likely voters in a 2012 poll support shortening prison terms by up to

education, mentorship, and restorative practices.

Sen. Yee spoke about legislation he introduced that would end California juveniles being sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"You can contribute by asking your family to call their local representatives and express their opposition towards sentencing juveniles to life without the possibility of parole," Yee told the audience, referring to Senate Bill 9.

"I was moved by the way the group moved from I to We," said Sister Jabro. "The closing comments of each person, inside and outside, including obvious emotion, was profound. We are one!"

## Longer Prison Sentences Questioned

Continued from Page 1

The "lock 'em up and throw away the key" approach has reached its tipping point and policy-makers can help by adjusting the amount of time offenders serve behind bars, according to the report titled, *Time Served - The High Cost, Low Return of Long Prison Terms*.

The report quotes California Senate President, Pro tempore,

a year for low-risk, non-violent offenders if they have behaved well in prison or completed programming, according the report. The poll also showed support for using prison savings for alternatives to incarceration.

*To read the study, TIME SERVED, The High Cost, Low Return of Longer Prison Terms, go to [www.pewstates.org](http://www.pewstates.org)*

# 'Forgiving the Unforgivable'

## WORKSHOP EXPLORES HEALING AFTER MURDERS

By Paul Liberatore  
Marin Independent Journal

Kia Scherr recently led a workshop in Marin called "Forgiving the Unforgivable." The title is a paradox, and in Scherr's case a misnomer as well, because, as incredible as it may seem, she has forgiven the terrorists who murdered her husband and 13-year-old daughter.

"When we're feeling angry and vengeful and wanting retaliation, what happens is that our hearts are contracted," she says, quoting St. Augustine: "It's like taking poison and hoping your enemy dies."

Scherr's husband, Alan, 56, and daughter, Naomi, were among the 168 people killed in the Mumbai terrorist attacks of 2008.

At the time, she was visiting her family in Florida for Thanksgiving while her husband and daughter were in Mumbai on a meditation retreat.

A year after the deaths, Scherr, 56, who lives in Virginia, formed One Life Alliance, a Virginia-based organization dedicated to teaching people to honor the sacredness of life as a counter-balance to terrorism.

She is in Marin this weekend to participate in the 16th International Forgiveness Day events at Dominican University in San Rafael organized by the World-

wide Forgiveness Alliance, a nonprofit headed by Mill Valley lawyer Robert Plath. Information on Marin events is available online at [www.forgivenessday.org](http://www.forgivenessday.org) or by calling 381-3372.

"She has been enlightened enough in life that she knows that it doesn't pay to dwell on revenge and hatred," Plath says.

"It wouldn't allow her to do the work she's doing."

***"It was beyond comprehension... There was so much shock and grief and sadness that I didn't have room for anger."***

Part of the work she's doing with the One Life Alliance is to provide education, meals and medical check-ups for 1,000 children in the largest slum in Mumbai, the teeming Indian city where her husband and daughter were shot to death by Pakistani-trained gunmen as they sat down for a meal in a restaurant.

"It was beyond comprehension," she says, recalling the phone call from the U.S. State Department that delivered the

tragic news. "There was so much shock and grief and sadness that I didn't have room for anger."

Within a few hours, it occurred to her that the terrorists were ignorant of the interconnectedness of all people, what she calls "the life force that empowers each and every one of us."

Through her organization, she has been on a mission to spread that message, but she couldn't have done that without first forgiving her family's killers.

"Forgiveness," she says, "was the bridge to bring me to that point."

Ajmal Kasab, the only attacker who was captured alive, has been sentenced to death and is in prison awaiting execution.

While she has compassion for the terrorists and harbors no hatred of Kasab, she also believes he must pay for what he's done.

"There is a misunderstanding about forgiveness," she explains. "It does not mean condonement. It does not in any way mean that this young man should not be exactly where he is right now, which is awaiting execution. Forgiveness does not mean to let him go. Actions have consequences and he needs to be accountable to the full extent of the law for the lives he took."

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## Technology Used for Blocking Prison Cell Phones Problematic

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

A plan to block inmate use of contraband cell phones with new technology is plagued with problems, according to a new study by the California Council on Science and Technology.

The nonpartisan study raised serious concerns about California prison officials' plan to allow Global Tel Link to install Managed Access System technology in its 33 state prisons to block illegal cell phone use by inmates.

The study reports that capturing cell phone signals is a technology that is still evolving.

### TECHNOLOGY

The 71-page study concludes MAS technology is not mature enough for immediate large-scale deployments, such as the deal between GTL and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"Managed access as proposed will not do the job that the CDCR wants done," said Susan Hackwood, executive director of the study.

The study focuses on a litany of problems, which include the

technological inability to triangulate radio signals and stop frequency leakage that may disrupt cell phone use by people outside the prison. Nor does the technology prevent 4G, wireless internet, MiFi, text messages, or satellite transmissions, according to the study.

Test of the system was "rudimentary and would, at best, constitute a proof of concept, not an acceptable operational pilot test," the study finds.

### SECURITY ISSUES

"Cell phones in prisons are a growing state and national security issue," and inconsistent screening at state prisons is "less rigorous than screening found at a normal airport," according to key findings in the report.

The study noted, "There is no evidence that CDCR has fully or reliably identified the size of the contraband cell phone problem," adding that prison officials should find out the amount of contraband cell phone usage prior to implementing the technology.

The study recommends CDCR conduct thorough searches of all items, vehicles,

and personnel, and test the use of other technologies within confined prison locations.

Dana Simas, a CDCR spokesperson, said staff screenings would be "shortsighted" because it does not bear down on the problem.

Simas also said the study's concerns are unfounded and that the Federal Communications Commission backs the technology.

In 2011, officials reported 15,000 contraband cell phones were confiscated inside state prisons and conservation camps.

### INCREASED PENALTIES

In October, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bill 26, authored by Sen. Alex Padilla, which makes it a misdemeanor to smuggle wireless communication devices to inmates. It is punishable by six months in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 per device. The increased penalty for inmates found guilty of possessing a cell phone is a loss of up to 90 days good-time credit.

The study was prepared at the request of state Senators Elanin Alquist, Loni Hancock, Christine Kehoe, and Alex Padilla.

## EDUCATION CORNER

## Education Department Scheduled to Expand

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

Plans to begin San Quentin's newest vocational programs are now underway, said the prison's educational principal.

Sacramento has approved the hiring of instructors for building maintenance and computer literacy, the first new vocational programs, said Acting Principal Tony Beebe.

"Sacramento and the prison's administration are fully behind this expansion," Beebe said.

Programs expected to be operational by July 2013 are carpentry, heating ventilation and air conditioning, masonry, plumbing, small engine

repair and green technology. The Education Department will add three teachers to its Volunteer Education Program, three teachers to its GED program and four instructors to its Adult Basic Education, Beebe said.

Teachers and instructors who were previously laid off would be given priority to the new positions, Beebe said.

San Quentin has "surpassed the goals set by the Office of Correctional Education" in Sacramento, Beebe said. "I'm very proud of the teachers and staff; they're dedicated and self-motivated . . . They focus on what they need to do to make it better."

## S.Q. Veteran's Group Awards Scholarships

### TO CHILDREN OF ARMED SERVICE MEMBERS

By Paul Stauffer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Snider and Darryl Farris chose Piazza and Tingley's essays out of 200 candidates.

### SELECTION

They selected winners based on essay content, GPA, plans for further education, and their volunteer work.

Piazza's mother and sisters attended the banquet along with her father.

Her dad served in the 7th Artillery from 1966 to 1968. "As I accept this scholarship, I think of how proud I am that my father served his country," said Olivia.

The June 17 banquet featured Presentation of the Colors by San Quentin's Color Guard, including the American and Prisoner of War flags.

"One of the best things the VVGSQ does, they do for the community by giving out scholarships to kids who are in need," said Gloria Godchaux of Operation Mom.

### SPONSORS

Also attending were correctional Lt. Ken Evans, the group's chief sponsor, co-sponsor correctional Lt. Rudy Luna, Outside Veteran Coordinator the Rev. Terry Wolf and Veteran Service Officer Sean Stephens.

"I did four tours in Afghanistan for the U.S. Army 29th Infantry Battalion," said Stephens. "Coming in here and working with Ron Self and these guys helps me more than I help them."

The VVGSQ has awarded scholarships to the children of American veterans since 1990.

— Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.

# Stanford Law Professors Answer Questions About Their Three-Strikes Ballot Measure

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Three law professors explained legal details of the Three Strikes initiative on the November ballot for about 200 San Quentin prisoners, volunteers and staff members.

An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 California prisoners could be affected if voters approve the measure, Proposition 36, reported Stanford University law professors Michael Romano and David W. Mills, who led the successful initiative petition campaign that requires the election, and Anne Devereaux.

Before the July 27 forum, the lawyers met with the executive body of the San Quentin three strikes self-help group, Hope for Strikers. It includes prisoners who has been sentenced under the Three Strikes Law for at least the last 16 years. The inmates discussed their problems while in society which led them to crime, how they have rehabilitated themselves while incarcerated, and articulated their plans and aspirations for the future.

## Rupa and The April Fishes

POPULAR LATIN BAND PERFORMS DURING DAY OF PEACE EVENT

By Christopher Christensen  
Journalism Guild Writer

Wow! Who are those guys? That was the buzz around San Quentin when the April 28 Day of Peace featured the captivating music of Rupa and The April Fishes.

The April Fishes' Latin sound had prisoners' head bopping and dancing around the yard. The sound was different from the usual prison bands, said one prisoner.

The music they make defies simple labeling. They flow effortlessly between international styles and languages. Their socially conscious messages and fiery spirits are a true reflection of the global struggles of the times. From the U.S. Occupy movements to the civil war in Syria, they represent the soul of a new generation.

The group began when Rupa Marya and cellist Ed Baskerville were playing on the streets of San Francisco, in streetcars and art galleries. From there the musicians formed a band that produced three albums, La Pêcheuse (2006), eXtraOrdinary rendition (2008), and Este Mundo (2009). A fourth album,



Hope for Strikers executive body meeting with Stanford professors

Patten College instructors and others asked questions and received information pertinent to Proposition 36.

*Here are answers to questions posed to the professors:*

**According to Brown v. Poole, if the government agrees to give a defendant a specific sentence on a prior plea agreement, is the government obligated to honor the agreement?**

Yes. If it's on the record, the government must honor the agreement.

### Why won't this initiative cover all three strikers?

Public opinion dictates the scope of the initiative in tandem with the law itself.

### Will this affect those falling under the Cunningham law?

Yes, and hopefully it will give people relief.

### What can we do to help the initiative pass?

Let your people on the street, your family, your loved ones, know about the initiative and where to go on the Internet

to receive information: [www.Prop\\_36.org](http://www.Prop_36.org).

### How can those released by the initiative help the others still inside?

By staying clean and staying out of trouble. The last thing we need is people coming home, then getting into trouble. Those opposed will use you as an example.

**There is a provision in the initiative that states the petitioner has up to two years to submit a petition for resentencing to the court. Does this also mean that the court**

**has up to two years to answer the petition?**

No. Generally the court will have 30 to 45 days to answer the petition. The D.A. in most cases will ask for an extension.

**In the provision of the initiative, the judge can deny the petitioner resentencing in spite of him meeting the criteria. Does this mean that the judge can arbitrarily deny the petition without substantial proof that petitioner is an unreasonable risk to society?**

No. The petitioner is deemed by the initiative not to pose a risk to society, merely due to his/her meeting the criteria. Hence, the D.A. in this case has the burden to prove that the petitioner is a threat to society, not based on past conduct rather current behavior. A similar measure was passed regarding the resentencing of a defendant sentenced for possession of crack cocaine and 88 percent of the criminal defendant convicted for crack as oppose to powder cocaine were resentenced. We expect a similar turnout in this case.



Rupa and The April Fishes

Official Photo

Bills, is scheduled for release in October.

Their band grew and they got their first big performance at the Red Poppy Art House. They have toured the U.S., Canada, along the U.S.-Mexico border, and even as far as Budapest.

Their name is from an April Fools tradition in France to stick paper fishes on unsuspecting peoples' backs. According to legend, a French king decided to switch from the pagan calendar, when the New Year fell in April, to the Roman calendar. Those who resisted the change would continue to celebrate the New Year in April by giving out the fish.

"During the Bush Administration, we were feeling like April Fishes," said Marya. "People who don't believe the reality that's handed to them by some higher order, but instead insist on the reality they perceive in front of them. It's a political and social commentary."

The band's current world tour, the "April Fools Tour," includes band members Safa Shokri (upright bass), Misha Khalikulov (cello), Mario Silva (trumpet), Aaron Kierbel (drums), and Rupa Marya (songstress, voice, guitar).

*The band's web site is [www.theaprilfishes.com](http://www.theaprilfishes.com) and [www.facebook.com/aprilfishes](http://www.facebook.com/aprilfishes).*

## Poll Shows Strong Support For Three Strikes Initiative

A large majority of Californians say they want to change the state's Three Strikes Law so it only applies to violent and serious repeat offenders, according to two recent polls.

In the polls, CBRT Pepperdine found that 71 percent and 78 percent of likely voters would change the law.

The polls were conducted July 16-17 and July 30-Aug 1 with 812 and 873 participants, respectively.

Voters will decide in November whether to approve Proposition 36, which would revise the Three Strikes Law.

—Forrest Jones.

## Classification Changes

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

Changes are under way for determining where inmates are housed in California prisons, officials say.

Under the new classification score system, an inmates' institutional behavior would be a greater determinate of where that inmate is housed. Previously the classification emphasized the amount of time served on a sentence and type of crime the inmate committed.

Inmates who have serious in-custody rule violations or a history of escape would remain in high security prisons under the new system, officials say.

The changes come in a time when California's prison system is under great scrutiny.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that housing prisoners in overcrowded prisons violated their constitutional rights and ordered the state to reduce its prison population.

The state's response to the court order, called realignment, keeps low-level offenders and minor parole violators in county jails. Previously many were sent to state prisons to serve their sentences.

Officials say realignment will reduce the state prison population. It is also aimed at reducing recidivism by expanding vocational, education and rehabilitation programs.

# Breast Cancer Walk

## SUPPORTERS RAISED OVER TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS



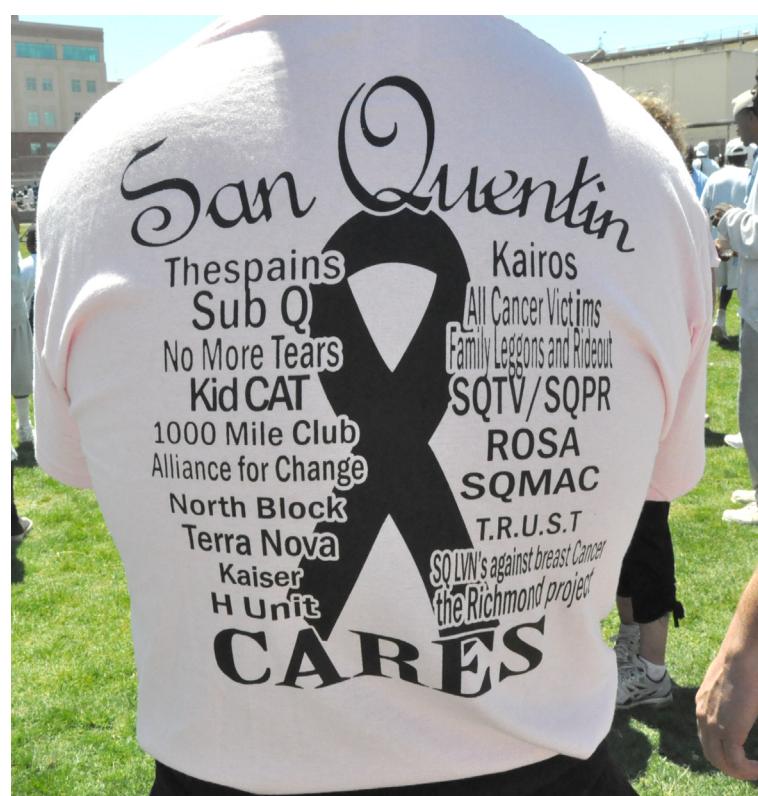
Supporters decorating the donation check



A. Warden Kevin R. Chappell and men of San Quentin pose with donation check



Men displaying cards given to all participants



Supporter displaying T-shirt listing donors



One rolled in support



CMO Dr. Tootell



Men walking San Quentin's Lower Yard



Supporters showing off their wristbands

## SPORTS

### Sports Ministry Mangles S.Q. Warriors, 111-87

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

The visiting Sports Ministry basketball team charged ahead and never looked back as they defeated the San Quentin Warriors 111-87. The knockout blow was 18 three-pointers.

Sports Ministry led 67-55 entering the fourth quarter when Warrior Leon Powell made a driving floater. Matt Richardson of the Sports Ministry answered with a foul shot after making a driving layup. Richardson followed by draining a deep three-pointer from the right corner, increasing their lead to 73-57.

The Warriors struck back as Richard "Mujahid" Munns buried a three-pointer. Next came a three-pointer by Charles Lowery of the Sports Ministry, and another Munns three-pointer. The Warriors trimmed their deficit to 76-67 on a put back by Kittrell Blade and a steal and layup by D. Winfrey.

Both teams proceeded to trade baskets.

Tyson Amir of the Sports Ministry knocked down two free throws, Aaron Flowers and Winfrey of the Warriors followed with strong put backs.

Leading 82-72, the Sports ministry scored on a free throw by Rich Branning and a layup by Richardson. After the Warriors scored on a Munns jumper, Richardson of the Sports ministry drained a three-pointer.

Leading 106-87, the Sports Ministry finished the game on two free throws by Richardson and a three-pointer by Dominic Greulich.

### Opening Day in SQ

*Continued from Page 1*

scored again, losing in a heart-breaker.

Early in the game, the Giants struck first as Stafont Smith smashed a two-run single to center field in the bottom of the first inning.

***"I went to the game to have fun."***

The A's tied the score on RBI hits by Asad Perez and Chris Marshall in the top of the second inning.

In the top of the fifth inning, the A's broke the tie as Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla smashed a RBI single up the middle. After scoring on a wild pitch, Perez hit a RBI double to right-centerfield, increasing their lead to 5-2. Michael Tyler started a Giants rally in the bottom

The Sports Ministry started the third quarter leading 51-44. After Amir made a free throw, Mark Ivy scored on a strong layup, giving them a 10-point lead. After James Burton of the Warriors scored on a coast-to-coast layup, Ivy returned to answer with a strong but back.

The Warriors followed with an Aaron Flowers layup. After Ivy threw an assist to Kevin Kelly of the sports ministry, Burton of the Warriors scored on a driving layup.

Leading 60-50, the play of the game came from Greulick of the Sports Ministry, who faked a pass to the left that drew the Warriors defense and then slipped an assist pass to Bobby Williams right under the basket.

"I love playing here," Lowery said after the game July 14. "It's an eye-opening experience playing basketball here. Coming into the game, we were focused on defense and rebounds. We hit our shots and pulled the win out."

Lowery sank six three-pointers and scored a team high 20 points. He also played a couple years of college basketball at Arizona University.

Richardson also commented after the game. "I've been here three times and I love the fellowship. My goal was to try to get other people involved." Richardson scored 19 points and played college basketball at Claremont-Mckenna College.

Munns of the Warriors finished with a game high 28 points, including six three-pointers.

of the fifth, as he drove a base hit to right field, stole second and scored on a A's error. After singles by Marcus Crumb and Hakika Lerato, Chris Smith tripled them home on a drive to center field, tying the game at 5-5.

Mario Ellis was the starting pitcher for the Giants and Jeff Dumont was the starting pitcher for the Athletics.

Athletics Coach John "Yahya" Parratt said, "This win says a lot about the A's under pressure. I'm very proud of how our team played situational baseball. We got this win by not giving up, even after the team put itself into some tight jams. I give credit to the Giants staff and players for a hard fight."

The Giants's Stafont Smith commented after their loss, "I went into the game to have fun. I wanted the new players to see that if you go into the

## One Athlete Gives His Take On Education and Sports

Sports and education are important elements in building character, says Sean Simms, one of San Quentin's outstanding athletes.

He is starting center of the San Quentin Kings basketball team and middle linebacker for the All Madden flag football team.

"I am a student-athlete," Simms said in an interview. "I take pride in my education. I see the importance of it. I underestimated it as a youth. I didn't take heed of the warning of my parents. I now have an appreciation of an education."

Simms also wishes he had played organized sports growing up in south-central Los Angeles. "If I had a chance to go back, I would try to play organized football. I see the benefit of it socially and physically. I see the potential of an education and a chance of going to a Division II or III college."

Simms hopes to pass this appreciation of educational excellence to his son. "My son, Evan, has always been my motivation to do well in school," he said. "Fortunately, Patten College has given me the opportunity to receive a great education and broaden my social skills. I want to show my son, and not just tell him, that through a good education anything is possible, including change."

The skills Simms has acquired through Patten have improved his athletic performance, as well. "Studying and preparing for school creates a balance that allows me the responsibility to attend practice and perform in games," he said.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

**Kings starter, Sean Simms, on the basketball court**

Last year, Simms officiated for the Kings. This is Simms's first year playing for the team, and he says he likes the camaraderie. "I enjoy the social interaction and learning from Coach Orlando Harris," he says. "I enjoy being a part of a team with winning results."

Simms also strives to pass on his appreciation for both

education and sports to young men at San Quentin, encouraging them "to first check in and attend school, whether it's to attain their G.E.D. or attend college, and with their remaining time I try to direct them to the basketball court of the football field," he said.

— Gary Scott



**Giants' and A's coaches confer during opening day**

game to have fun, you will enjoy the outcome, win or lose, because of good sportsmanship and good attitude. I knew we were up against their ace starting pitcher because of the games we played before. My approach was to make

a statement in that game, that the San Quentin Giants is another team to be reckoned with."

Lt. Sam Robinson threw the opening pitch, which was a fastball strike. Larry Faison played a rousing version

of the Star Spangled Banner on his trumpet, and the colors were presented by the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin.

— Gary Scott

# Prisoner Recalls Olympic Tryouts

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

The 2012 Summer Olympic Games conjure up fond memories for San Quentin prisoner Ralph "Red" L. Ligons.

He was a world-class 100-meter sprinter who competed in the Olympic trials in 1972 at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore. The same venue was used for the Olympic trials this year.

"It brings back memories of competing against guys like Ray Robinson, Eddie Hart and John Taylor," Ligons said.

The 1972 summer Olympics were held in Munich, Germany. Ligons did not make to the games; however, he continued competing in track until 1975.

Sacramento State University track coach Stan Wright recruited Ligons out of high school. Wright was also the U.S. Olympic coach for the track and field at the 1968 and 1972 Olympics. "Wright became the father figure I had been missing in my life," Ligons said.

Ligons' 10.1-second 100-meter record still stands at Sacramento State.

After his competition days, Ligons coached high school and college runners. He said coaching was a dream come true.

"Running taught me discipline, organization, to be a player, and the value of hard work," Ligons said. "Somewhere along the way, I lost sight of those lessons."

## Tainted Soap Recalled

By Kris Himmelberger  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prison officials recalled soap produced by the California Prison Industry Authority due to a trace amount of a cancer-causing ingredient.

The July 27 alert prompted collection of all PIA soap in San Quentin housing units. Inmates were issued half-bars of commercial soap pending arrival of new shipments of the PIA product.

"By 7:45 a.m., the officers were breaking bars of Irish Spring, Ivory, and Jergens in half," said North Block prisoner Steve Cortz. "A few minutes later I heard, 'Listen up gentleman! If you have any PIA soap, you need to bring it to the desk.'"



In a statement, PIA said the carcinogen was found in its annual review of products. The alert did not specify the known chemical, only that it was a carcinogen.

The PIA announcement said it had not been contacted by anyone reporting health concerns associated with its soap, but discontinued production as a precaution.

Replacement soap production began July 28, the PIA reported. It planned to begin shipping the new bars shortly thereafter.

PIA reported it will reimburse institutions for any unused soap. It said it will also reimburse customers for any additional cost incurred in the procurement of replacement soap from any other vendor.



Ralph Ligons

In 2001, Ligons was convicted of a three-strikes offense. He says his downfall was alcohol abuse and a fast lifestyle.

Ligons says today he's clean and sober. "I credit the Addiction Recovery Counseling program at San Quentin for helping recognize my triggers in life," he said in an interview.

***"I credit the Addiction Recovery Counseling program at San Quentin for helping me recognize my triggers in life."***

He instructs the San Quentin running group called the 1000-Mile Club. His advice to runners: "Always seek to make yourself better, and believe in yourself."

Ligons says he values his family more than anything in life, and is happy just watching the games on television.

## The Men's Advisory Council

### EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN EXPLAINS ITS FUNCTION

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

When California prisoners have a general problem, the first stop is usually with somebody like Sam W. Johnson Sr., executive chairman of the San Quentin Men's Advisory Council.

MAC's job is "to advise and communicate with the warden and other staff those matters of common interest and concern to the inmate general population," Johnson said.

MAC is composed of an elected representative from each of the prison buildings.

"I became a MAC representative because I wanted to help the general population create a better living environment where positive growth can happen," said Johnson.

He said he wants to be a realistic voice of the general population to the administration; however, "What the general population sometime doesn't realize is the MAC representative is not an alternative for the inmate grievance process or someone's personal problem."

"If the specific problem doesn't affect the overall population, then the MAC really can't do anything about it. Furthermore, the administration still has the last say on any concern. All we can do is present the issue or problem to the administration,"

Johnson added. "Depending on the significance of the issue, if we're not satisfied, we can always appeal to Sacramento."

The living conditions in West Block were partly resolved after appealing to Sacramento by its block chairman, Jamal Lewis. The remaining issues are being reviewed by the San Quentin administration, Lewis said.

***"When we all work together we can accomplish anything"***

As another example of how MAC can be effective, Johnson said recently the administration discovered a "kite" (note) indicating an approaching clash between African-American and Caucasian inmates.

Johnson and the MAC representatives looked into the truthfulness of the note. After going to each building, talking to individual groups regardless of their race, found the note was a fake. The MAC representatives reported that the note was a fake to the administration. After the administration confirmed the note had no validity, institutional programming was not disrupted.

"When we all work together, we can accomplish anything. Our goal is to live in a productive environment," Johnson said.

Reflecting on his background, Johnson said when he first arrived in prison, he realized his attitude and his way of thinking was an anchor holding him down, and it was the real reason he ended up in prison.

He said attending the Victim Offender Reconciliation Group at Solano State Prison made him realize he didn't have to continue thinking and believing in old stereotypes regarding violence and prison culture. However, it wasn't until he arrived at San Quentin and enrolled in the Victim Offender Education Group that he was able to let go of his old way of thinking and behavioral problems.

He said VOEG changed his life, allowing him to appreciate the importance of community.

"People who come from other institutions are not aware of how many programs are here. If they participate in them, they'll eventually grow to appreciate all the help that this prison has to offer," Johnson added.

Johnson said Acting Warden Kevin Chappell and Chief Deputy Warden Rodriguez are making his job easy because they support San Quentin's many self-help programs and educational opportunities.

## West Virginia's Prison Problem

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

West Virginia is struggling with chronic prison overcrowding, and leaders are warning they need a workable solution now.

"I do believe we're literally at the point where we can't kick the can down the road and defer attention to this matter anymore," Democratic State Sen. Bill Laird, a former four-term sheriff in West Virginia, told The Associated Press. "There's a great sense of urgency in my mind. I can't think of any more important public policy issue facing our Legislature today."

Hope for action has surfaced in a letter signed by a number of influential West Virginia leaders. The letter said West Virginia has the second-highest growth of corrections spending among the states, and its jails have the

fourth-highest percentage of felons, as reported in the AP. It pointed out that the increased prison population has caused around 1,800 convicted felons to serve parts of their sentences in regional jails.

The letter asked the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, a non-governmental organization, to examine and advise them on how to reform the state's penal system.

The state's prison population has quadrupled to 6,900 inmates since 1990, according to state officials. Drugs and drug-related crimes are fueling the population behind bars. Experts estimate that at least 80 percent of inmates committed crimes somehow linked to drug or alcohol abuse, and about half of the total population are in for non-violent offenses.

The JRI has assisted 16 other states reform its penal systems,

including Pennsylvania and Ohio. Texas reported savings of more than \$443 million since 2007 through Justice Center recommendations, according to the AP.

The Justice Center was not the first organization to study West Virginia's prison overcrowding dilemma. In 2009, a report by the Governor's Commission on Prison Overcrowding made a long list of recommendations without resolving the problem. "Political influences have often swayed the debate," reports the AP.

"The idea behind the Justice Reinvestment Initiative is to remove these political influences from the decision-making process," according to the AP. The Justice Center demands bipartisan and interbranch support for justice reinvestment — putting resources toward policies proven to reduce recidivism.

## Voters Split in Death Penalty Poll

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

An online poll conducted July 30 – Aug 1 shows California voters are in favor of keeping capital punishment as its harshest punishment for murder. However, a poll conducted July 16-17 found support for Proposition 34, which would ban the punishment,

was tied with the opposition. The CBRT Pepperdine Initiative Test asked likely California voters: "If the election were today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 34?"

The most recent poll showed 55.7 percent of voters would keep the death penalty while 35.9 percent would end it; the earlier poll showed 46.7 percent for and 45.5 percent against.

If passed, Death Row prisoners would receive life imprisonment without possibility of parole. Provisions in the law would direct \$100 million to law enforcement agencies for investigating homicide and rape cases. Analysts estimate state and county criminal justice savings at about \$130 million annually with a one-time cost of \$100 million.

**1. SPRINGFIELD, Ill.**

—Three prison inmates are asking a federal judge to order prison officials to improve the living conditions at the minimum-security Vienna Correctional Center in southern Illinois. The suit says many of the nearly 1,900 Vienna prisoners live in moldy, cockroach- and mouse-infested quarters with insufficient bathroom facilities. It also says some broken windows were boarded up, rather than replaced, according to reports by The Illinoisan.

**2. PENNSYLVANIA**

—Gov. Tom Corbett signed legislation that would send nonviolent, addicted offenders to facilities that would treat their addiction problems at the local level, reports The Patriot News.

**3. BOSTON** — State legislators passed a bill that, if signed by the governor, would require offenders who commit a third serious felony to face life in prison without the possibility of parole.

**4. PRUNTYTOWN, W.Va.** — The starting salary for a full-time West Virginia correctional officer is \$22,584 — \$500 less than Mississippi — and about \$800 below the federal poverty level for a family of four, reports the Associated Press.

**5. SAN FRANCISCO** — The city's Adult Probation Department reports it processed 3,318 cases last year. Sixty percent of the offenders did not go to jail. In 2010, 54 percent of the offenders went to jail.

**6. WASHINGTON** — Employers could be guilty of discriminating if they use criminal histories to deny jobs, the Employment Opportunity Commission says. They cannot use arrest records in hiring decisions because "arrests are not proof of criminal conduct." An employer can exclude applicants with criminal convictions provided it can demonstrate that the exclusion is job-related.

**7. AUSTIN, Texas** — With 21 of 111 Texas prisons fully air-conditioned, two lawsuits were filed because of heat-related deaths between 2008 and



2011. One suit claims the indoor temperature of a dorm reached a high of 134 degrees during the summer of 2008, according to The New York Times.

**8. ALABAMA** — State officials say there are about 26,500 inmates in its prison system, which is designed for only 13,000. The inmate-to-staff ratio is about 11-to-1, more than twice the national average of 5-to-1, according to The Montgomery Advertiser. State officials say they are concerned the overcrowding may lead to more violence.

**9. FLORENCE, Arizona** — Samuel Villegas Lopez, 49, was executed in June by lethal injection for the rape and murder of a 59-year-old woman in 1987. He was the fourth Arizona inmate executed this year and the 32nd since the state reinstated the death penalty in 1992. Twenty-three people were executed in the United States this year, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

**10. LOS ANGELES** — Chief U.S. District Judge Anthony W. Ishii ruled George Souliotes, 72, convicted of setting a fire that killed his tenant

and her two children, has shown "actual innocence" and may now challenge his conviction on other grounds. Ishii examined the evidence against Souliotes and concluded the evidence was insufficient to prove he is guilty of the charges.

**11. HARTFORD, Conn.** — New state legislation would allow the state's sickest prisoners to be transferred to a nursing home beginning early next year. State officials said the transfers would save millions of dollars in health care costs, according to an Associated Press report.

**12. BOISE, Idaho** — The state's overcrowding problem has prison officials planning to send 250 male prisoners to a Corrections Corporation of America facility in Colorado, according to The Associated Press. If the prison population keeps growing, plans are to ship an additional 200 inmates out-of-state, the AP report says.

**13. BATON ROUGE, La.** — State officials are closing the Forcht-Wade Correctional Center in the Caddo Parish community of Keithville and the J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center at Pineville in Rapides

Parish, according to The Associated Press. State officials say the cost-cutting closures are allowed because many prisoners will soon be released.

**14. BRIDGEPORT, Conn.** — "Children and families are the unintended consequences of the criminal justice system," says Steve Lanza, executive director of Family ReEntry, which includes the Champions Mentoring Program begun in 2003 to provide support for some of the approximately 3,000 children affected by incarceration in the state.

**15. AKRON, Ohio** — Dewey Jones was granted a new trial after authorities discovered that the DNA on a rope and knife used to murder a 71-year-old retiree matched another person. Jones was convicted of the murder/robbery in 1995, according to The Associated Press.

**16. JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** — Gov. Jay Nixon signed legislation that would send non-violent offenders to treatment facilities instead of prison, according to The Associated Press.

**17. CHAMPAIGN, Ill.** — Prosecutors dropped the case against Andre Davis after DNA

showed he was not the person who raped and killed a 3-year-old girl. Hours later, he was released from prison, according to The Associated Press.

**18. COLUMBUS, Ohio** — State lawmakers approved the first three inmates for a program intended to assist ex-offenders find jobs once released from prison. Inmates with good behavior who have completed vocational programs, earned high school diplomas and performed at least 120 hours of community service are eligible, according to The Associated Press.

**19. ST. LOUIS, Mo.** — Lonnie Erby served 17 years in prison for the sexual assault of two teenage girls in 1985. DNA cleared him in 2003, and this year another man was convicted for those crimes, according to The Associated Press.

**20. LOS ANGELES** — County officials are considering sending some prisoners to San Joaquin Valley to ease jail overcrowding, according to The Associated Press. More than 5,000 inmates have been shifted to Los Angeles County jails since the state implemented its state prison population reduction plan. Sheriff's officials say space will likely run out by Christmas. There are now 18,600 inmates in the jail system, according to the AP report.

**21. DALLAS** — Texas officials have switched to a single drug for executions, reports The Associated Press. Officials said they would use pentobarbital instead of a three-drug combination.

**22. SACRAMENTO** — Hollywood producer Scott Budnick has been named California prisons "Volunteer of the Year." Gov. Jerry Brown said Budnick was selected for his "marked devotion" to helping California inmates get a higher education. Corrections Secretary, Mathew Cate said, "Scott Budnick has gone above and beyond, giving hundreds of young offenders a chance to trade a seemingly hopeless path of crime that landed them in the criminal justice system for a path of opportunity."

## Policies That Can Reduce Sexual Abuse in Prison

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Two reports by the U.S. Department of Justice say prison rape can be dramatically reduced by changing attitudes toward those most vulnerable to abuse, and implementing policies and procedures that provide effective victim services.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported data on sexual victimization in prisons and jails from October 2008 until December 2009 based on computer-assisted self-interviews of 81,566 inmates, age 18 or older, in 167 state and federal prisons and 286 jails in the United States.

A 2008 survey by the BJS of former prisoners concluded that

prison officials could prevent sexual abuse by recognizing common characteristics of inmates who are vulnerable.

Key factors that would help officials implement effective policies:

- Understanding the differences between male and female facilities
- Utilizing professional language in establishing a safe environment
- Recognizing the vulnerability of non-heterosexual inmates and their need for proper treatment, strengthening the integrity of the entire complaint process
- Providing effective victim services
- Equipping staff to respond effectively to inmate sexual victimization

The DOJ's Review Panel on Prison Rape discovered that an estimated 9.6 percent of former inmates experienced at least one incident of sexual victimization during their last stay in jail, prison, or a post-release community treatment facility. More than three-fourths of the victimization transpired while the inmate was in state prison.

Although the rate of sexual victimization in state prison reported by former inmates (7.5%) was higher than the rate reported by inmates in previous BJS surveys (4.8% in 2008-09), the difference may reflect longer exposure periods (39.4 months and 7.9 months, respectively).

About 3.7 percent of the victims said they were forced or

pressured to have nonconsensual sex with another inmate.

About 5.3 percent of former state prisoners reported an incident that involved facility staff. An estimated 1.2 percent of former prisoners reported that they unwillingly had sex or sexual contact with facility staff, and 4.6 percent reported they "willingly" had sex or sexual contact with staff.

Among victims of staff sexual misconduct, 79 percent were males reporting sexual activity with female staff.

The report said female inmates were victimized by other female inmates three times the rate of male inmate-on-inmate victimization.

According to the report, 4.4 percent of prison inmates and

3.1 percent of jail inmates — approximately 88,500 people — experienced sexual victimization within a period of 12 months.

Seventy-two percent of the inmates who were victims of sexual abuse by other inmates said they felt shame or humiliation after getting out of prison, while 56 percent said they felt guilt, according to the BJS report.

*National Council on Crime and Delinquency recently launched a web site, for training and technical assistance to eliminate sexual assault in jail, prisons, and other places of confinement for corrections, detention, and law enforcement professionals. www.prear-sourcecenter.org*



# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

In prison lingo, *program* refers to the daily routine of an inmate. For the most part, it involves rehabilitative groups, educational or vocational classes, sports activities, and religious services. There are roughly 79 active programs at San Quentin.

Asked on the Line conducted random, informal interviews with the men at San Quentin and asked three questions: How long have you been at San Quentin? How many programs are you actively involved in right now? Which has made the most impact on you?

The length of time the men had spent at San Quentin was from one to 15 years. Based on the interviews, the average stay was about five years, three

months. The inmate with the most time, Randy Maluenda, arrived in 1997. Somewhere in the middle is Larry Histon, who has been at San Quentin since 2001.

On average, the men are presently involved in three groups or programs. Terrell Merrit is involved in six programs; the ones that have made the most impact in his rehabilitative progress are the Buddhist services, Alliance, GRIP, and Yoga. Many of the programs the men mentioned were: Centerforce, Breaking Barriers, VOEG, Patten College, SQUIRES, TRUST, Creative Writing, IMPACT, ARC, MVB (vocations), MOMAS, Hobby Program, Kid CAT, Non-Violent Communication, Shakespeare, Coastline College, and the Journalism Guild.

Do the programs make a difference in the lives of the par-

ticipants? They definitely do. Kenyatta Leal said, "The programs make a difference in the culture of the prison community here at San Quentin. Programs like Centerforce and Breaking Barriers have helped me understand how important health is in our lives and how important it is to give back and help other people."

Sam Johnson said he believes "VOEG helped me to be a better man, father, and member of the community."

"The two programs I am involved in both go hand-in-hand. It gives me balance," said Marvin Arnold.

Jeff Long attends Patten College classes and enjoys the Hobby Program.

--Kris Himmelberger contributed to this story.

## Bail Bond Industry Practices Bump Up County Jail Costs

By San Quentin News Staff

The California bail bond industry's influence on how county jails operate is costly to taxpayers and injurious to the poor, according several recent reports.

In California, 71 percent of the people in county jails are awaiting trial — far exceeding the national average of 61 percent, according to a report by the ACLU. Nationwide, the percentage has increased more than 20 percent in the last decade, found a report by the Justice Policy Institute.

The state's pretrial detainee population costs taxpayers approximately \$100 per day or \$1.8 billion annually, according to a report by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Approximately half of these people have

been found eligible for bail — meaning they do not pose a flight risk or a risk to society — but cannot afford it, so they remain incarcerated until their trial is over, which can take months or years.

Notably, when bail decisions are made by commercial bail industry administrators, the only relevant factor is the person's assets, regardless of risk factors that might show the person is a danger to public safety, finds the CJCJ report. In addition, bail bondsmen are not obligated to prevent criminal activity of their clients.

The reports point out that bail policies do not ensure public safety and discriminate against those who cannot afford bail, which results racial disparities.

A 2003 study found that Latino and black defendants are more likely than white defendants to be held in jail because of an inability to post bail.

In order to reduce the pretrial detainee population in California, jurisdictions must reduce the use of the money-based bail system and instead base release decisions on individualized risk assessments, like family ties, employment, and length of time the person has been in the community, suggests the CJCJ report. Counties should make a commitment to utilize risk assessment tools and pretrial service programs, and also ensure that these programs are funded adequately so that they can function safely, efficiently, and sufficiently.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 17: T.R.U.S.T ninth annual Health Fair in the gymnasium  
August 18: Restorative Justice Roundtable symposium in Catholic Chapel  
September 22: Recovery Month Celebration on the Lower Yard.

## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is the only prisoner-produced newspaper in the California prison system and one of the few in the world. Prisoners do the reporting and editing work inside the prison, but they need help paying to have the paper printed and mailed.

From its founding in 1940 through 2009 the paper was printed by prisoners in the print shop. But in 2010 the print shop was closed due to statewide cost cutting measures.

Since then the paper has been printed at Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. The cost has been covered by private donations through a non-profit established for that purpose, the Prison Media Project.

Those donations are shrinking and if the paper is to continue, new support is needed. Please go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), to see how you can become a supporter. You get a tax deduction...plus a year's worth of copies of the newspaper mailed to you.

Many thanks, San Quentin News Staff and Advisers.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

## San Quentin News

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism



Registered Dental Assistant Shawnett demonstrates proper brushing techniques

## Ninth Annual Health Fair

By San Quentin News Staff

Hundreds of inmates flooded the Lower Yard and gym for the ninth annual San Quentin TRUST Health Fair, lining up to learn how to live healthy lives in prison.

Inmates received testing for blood pressure and cholesterol,

education on diabetes and nutrition, chiropractic services, and classes in Tai Chi, yoga and Qi Gong.

“The Health Fair began with just ten volunteers; today there are a hundred and eighty-three,” said Dr. Arnold Chavez, Ed.D., an Alameda County Public Health Department official.

The event was sponsored by the inmate self-help activity group Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST). Major contributions were provided by Elena Tootell, the prison’s chief medical offi-

See T.R.U.S.T. on Page 6

## Literacy Program Celebrates 13 Successful Years at S.Q.



Graduates receiving their certificates

By San Quentin News Staff

Community volunteers and prison educators shared hamburgers and pizza with inmates to celebrate a literacy program’s 13th annual Student Acknowledgment Night.

“In order to connect and be an effective member of the community, education is paramount,” said Tom Bolema, San Quentin literacy coordinator and chief

sponsor of a literacy program called Project REACH (Reaching Education Achievement and Change with Help). “Getting a GED is a meaningful accomplishment, and the gateway to a higher education.”

About 25 prisoners are enrolled in the program, which Bolema took over two years ago when its sponsor, Debra Shelton, retired. She attended the event to offer her continued support.

The program was founded in 1999 when Jane Curtis collaborated with San Quentin inmates with high school diplomas or GED certificates who wanted to help other inmates prepare for GED certificates. New inmate tutors are trained by Madeleine Provost of Marin Literacy Library.

Supplemental classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays nights, led by community volunteers Jacqueline Nelson, Kony Kim, Nicole Lindehl, Yvette Copper, June Fesler and Carly Stair.

“The students are incredibly dedicated,” said math instructor Sue Pixley. “A lot of students pass the GED test, and then return as tutors to help others improve themselves.”

“I was fortunate enough to go through PUP (Prison University Project), and that experience changed my life,” said program Chairman Bobby D. Evans Jr. “Now Project REACH has given me a way of giving back.”

See Project on Page 4

## Judge Rejects Ending Medical Receivership

John Eagan  
Senior Adviser

The federal judge who ordered major improvement in California prison medical care has refused to end the receivership he imposed in 2006.

“Evidence of progress made under the direction and control of the receiver does not constitute evidence of [the state’s] own will, capacity, and leadership to maintain a constitutionally adequate system of inmate medical care,” U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson wrote in a Sept. 5 decision.

He also wrote that state officials have “not always cooperated with, and have sometimes actively sought to block, the receiver’s efforts.”

Henderson said he’ll require tougher reviews than the state wanted before he would discontinue the receivership.

The state originally asked Henderson to end the receivership in 30 days. Henderson rejected that idea and the most recent request to dissolve it in six months.

See Prison on Page 4

## Building Named In Honor of Lewis



The David Lewis community re-entry building

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Staff Writer

David Lewis spent many years turning his life around, and helping other convicts and ex-cons get their lives on track. The East Palo Alto City Council honored him by naming a social service building The David Lewis Reporting Center.

The 54-year-old father of four was murdered in 2011, years after winning parole from San Quentin.

Lewis is best known for his fight against substance abuse when he co-founded Free at Last in East Palo Alto. His role with Free at Last gave him recogni-

See Palo Alto on Page 4

## Changes To Juvenile LWOP

The California Legislature has approved a bill giving prisoners sentenced as juveniles to life without parole a chance to one day be released.

Gov. Jerry Brown has not indicated whether he will sign or veto the bill.

The measure, SB 9, would allow such prisoners who have served at least 15 years to ask a

judge to reduce their sentence to 25 years-to-life if the inmate has shown remorse and is working toward rehabilitation.

Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, says his bill recognizes that young people do foolish things but change as they age. Sen. Joel Anderson, R-La Mesa, called the bill “absolutely outrageous.”

# Insufficient Funding Leads to Slow Death Penalty Appeals

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Inadequate funding of capital defense attorneys has drastically slowed the appeals process in some states. The result: overflowing Death Row populations, including California's, reports show.

A 2008 report evaluating California's death penalty found "to achieve the goals of justice, fairness and accuracy in the administration of the death penalty in California, and reduce delays at least to the national average, there is urgent need to increase the funding at every level: trials, direct appeals and habeas corpus review."

A commission that included Gov. Jerry Brown, then attorney general produced the report.

In Kentucky, capital defenders, investigators, and mitigation specialists are "routinely overworked and underpaid, carrying caseloads ranging from 12 to 25 capital cases at any given time," according to a report in The Augusta Chronicle.

Kentucky's capital defenders complain that heavy death penalty caseloads caused 50 of the 78 cases to be overturned on appeal. Public Advocate Ed Monahan said he believes the reason is defenders had inadequate time to complete their cases before trial.

The American Bar Association says a capital attorney can handle a maximum of four death penalty cases at a time. However, in Georgia, court papers show that defenders often

handle more than six. "Current funding levels in Georgia, capital trials have resulted in seven death penalty verdicts out of 125 cases since 2005," according to the Augusta Chronicle. In five cases, the district attorney withdrew death notice, and in one case, a client died in custody. There remain 51 cases pending in Georgia, the report said.

Pennsylvania has twice the Death Row population as Georgia. There, capital defenders are paid based on a 15-year-old fee schedule, which a Philadelphia judge recently ruled was "woefully inadequate."

"I think ultimately, there's no such thing as death penalty on the cheap," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

## State Losing Firefighting Resources

### INMATE FIREFIGHTERS SENT TO COUNTY LOCK-UPS

By N. T. Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

The state is about to lose a very valuable and crucial weapon in the fight against wildfires, prison officials warn: inmate firefighters.

Within the next year, the number of state prison inmates that are available to battle wildfires will be reduced dramatically, various news media report, including the San Francisco Chronicle.

This drop-off is the result of Gov. Jerry Brown's realignment plan, which shifts some of the responsibility for housing some prisoners from state prisons to county jails. The shift impacts low-level offenders, who make up the bulk of inmate firefighter crews.

#### FIRST RESPONDERS

Inmate firefighter crews are, oftentimes, some of the first responders when a wildfire erupts, state fire officials say. These inmates are volunteers who are specially trained to perform essential firefighting duties, such as create fire containment lines.

Presently, there are approximately 4,000 inmates who have received this training, but officials with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) said they expect to lose approximately 1,500 of those inmates

by June 2013, since more inmates will remain in county jails instead of being sent to state prison.

Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, recognizes the value of these men and women. "They're able to provide a large workforce," he said in a Chronicle interview. "Oftentimes, we have just as many, if not more, inmate firefighters on the fire line than regular fire crews."

#### INACCESSIBLE

Those inmate firefighters have been an important element in battling several recent large-scale fires throughout the state. Inmate firefighters were instrumental in containing the Robbers Fire, which burned 2,650 acres of steep terrain in the American River Canyon, Berlant said. The fire was inaccessible to bulldozers and using fire-retardant chemicals was not an option since they could runoff into Folsom Lake, part of the California water system.

Berlant added: Most of the work creating fire-lines was done by over 800 inmates using chain saws and hand tools. The fire forced many residences to evacuate and endangered 170 homes. But, because of the inmate firefighters' efforts, only one house and four outbuildings were destroyed. More than 2,500 inmates fought fires in

several other California counties, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Lake, Mendocino and Napa.

State officials are currently negotiating with county sheriffs to have counties pay the state to house its inmates in CDCR fire camps and still enable them to perform this vital function. However, according to Dana Simas, spokeswoman for CDCR, the discussions have not resulted in an agreement as of the end of August. There are 42 conservation fire camps throughout the state, allowing inmates to respond quickly to an emergency.

#### OTHER DUTIES

Inmates also handle other duties when not fighting fires, such as clearing brush and vegetation, and performing community service projects, such as restoring historic structures and upkeep of local parks.

The point of contention between the counties and CDCR is the amount CDCR wants sheriffs to pay in order to house the inmates. Nevada County Sheriff Keith Royal said state officials and county sheriffs are negotiating a deal where the counties pay the state \$46 per person to house inmates in the camps. However, Royal, who is the president of the California State Sheriffs' Association, doubts many of his counterparts will opt into the program.

## Faulty Lab Testing Spurs Review of Convictions

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Federal officials are reviewing convictions based on potentially flawed hair sample lab analysis.

The concern surfaced when The Washington Post report-

ed two cases where men were convicted based on faulty hair sample tests by the FBI lab.

The Innocence Project, an advocacy group that works to exonerate wrongly convicted persons, will provide an independent, third-party oversight of the review. National

Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers will also assist in the review.

The effort is "a step in the right direction," said Michael R. Bromwich, a former Justice Department inspector general, quoted in an AP report.



Photo By Tom Bolema

The Green Life environmental education group

## Prisoner Activists Adopt a Green Life

By San Quentin News Staff

A group of San Quentin prisoners is learning how to protect and preserve the environment.

"They are clear that in order to do this, they need to understand the environmental implications of their actions and learn viable alternatives," said the program's chief sponsor, Angela Sevin. "They, their families, and members of our communities all depend on the skills they will gain through this project."

Twice a week Sevin ventures inside San Quentin State Prison to help organize about 25 inmates in the eco-literacy program.

The idea came from an April 2009 San Quentin lecture by environmental activist and leading voice for a green economy, Van Jones.

Jones' lecture was a catalyst to form The Green Life program at San Quentin.

The program is seeking ways to fix some of earth's toughest

environmental problems, says Sevin.

Sevin works with a worldwide environmental expert, Pandora Thomas, along with inmate facilitators to teach environmental sustainability and self-sufficiency to the program's participants.

Inmates share examples about how to integrate sustainable practices into their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Inmates also develop individual projects — including the greening of San Quentin by supporting prison's recycling program, and performing a water and food audit.

The program's mission works as "a collaboration of solutionaries from inside and outside communities that inspires and awakens our connection to the earth and each other, by contributing to individual, community and global transformations."

The Green Life is scheduled to graduate its first class in November. It is also planning to stage a Green Fair.

## Campaign to Stop Transfers Sparks Plea to State Leaders

Opposition has surfaced to transferring most of the prisoners in a popular program at California State Prison at Lancaster.

More than three-quarters of the men who partake in the Honor Program/Progressing Programming Facility at Lancaster are being shipped away to other less well-functioning prisons, according to the report.

The program was created in 2000 by prisoners and non-custody staff with the desire to lower violence, crime, racism, and drug use, according to a report issued in 2007.

Hundreds of friends and family members of the men have launched a campaign to save the program in the only state prison in LA County. A petition opposing the transfers has been

sent to Gov. Jerry Brown, legislators, policymakers and top prison administrator Matthew Cate, the report says.

Friends and families are reported as saying these transfers are imposing needless hardships. Furthermore, critics say they waste money. Transfers jeopardize the stability of a program that should be the template for future corrections in California, critics say. The transfers will result in the collapse of the only fully functioning maximum security prison in a dysfunctional prison system, the report said.

To view the documents visit [www.prisonhonorprogram.org](http://www.prisonhonorprogram.org). Interested persons can send emails to [prisonerprogram@hotmail.com](mailto:prisonerprogram@hotmail.com).

—Charles David Henry

# Actors Relate Personal Stories in Famed Hamlet Play

By Jessica Floum  
Marin Independent Journal

The Hebrew prayer sung by Julian Glenn Padgett rang through the auditorium just inside San Quentin State Prison's gates. It opened Padgett's performance that included songs such as "My Girl" by The Temptations, sung to a swaying crowd, and a performance in which he told his childhood memories to a tearful audience.

At age 5, Padgett's mother enrolled him in ballet. At 7, he shot a gun at his stepfather after watching him beat his mother unconscious. At 41, Padgett sang to his dying mother by telephone from within prison walls after she informed him of his sister's sudden death.

Padgett, 48, is serving 32 years to life at San Quentin State Prison on charges of arson, burglary, car theft and first-degree murder.

He was among 10 San Quentin inmates who brought some 200 people — fellow inmates and audience members from outside the prison — to laughter and tears Sept. 7 when they performed stories about their past in "Parallel Play: Original Theater Inspired by Hamlet." Themes included love, betrayal, revenge and abandonment, feelings that resonated with the prisoners and audience members alike.

## Here are some quotes from the actors and audience:

LESLIE CURRIER, assistant managing director of Marin County Shakespeare Co.—"All of the men acted in Hamlet earlier this year. The parallel play is autobiographical stories written by the actors in Hamlet, which is part of the S.Q. Shakespeare Project. All these men have depth of character. They can relate to their characters in their own lives. The guys selected these stories because there's a need for them to come out. The themes they chose from Hamlet are love, abandonment, imprisonment of the mind, and others."

JOHN NEBLITT—"We've been rehearsing seriously for the past three months. I also have an appearance in the introduction and in Angelo's piece. My personal piece is about life circumstances of my crime, also regarding mixed feelings of 'mother love,' which was inspired by my character King Claudius, Hamlet's stepfather. It's about love and repentance."

LAURIE BROOKS, from the William James Association, primary supporter of the Arts in Corrections program. -- "We have a wonderful, thriving program here at S.Q." A.I.C. program was started in 1977 with the William James Foundation. The pilot program started at CMF until the state took over the program about 1981. "I've been with the program for the last two years."

KIMINI RANDALL—"This play (Forgiveness) is based on the first time I felt betrayed by my mother."

JONATHAN WILSON—The Search for Love—"This is a story about my feelings of betrayal. All I know is that I've always felt alone as a little boy. Even surrounded by 1,200 men, I still feel alone all the time. How could someone who always had everything else have nothing that he really needed? Why did they (my mother and father) both have to lie to me? If I have learned anything, I've learned that loving someone who may hurt you is trusting that they won't."

JOHN NEBLETT—Rain Enough—Acted out his part in a song about empathy.

TRISTEN JONES—Because I Said So—About being raised as a Jehovah's Witness. Had the entire audience laughing. "It left me so unprepared for life that I wasn't able to handle it when I was out on my own. I asked myself, 'How did I get here?' The answer was, 'I'm an idiot.'"

ANGELO FALCONE—Betrayal—His story was a short, Hamlet-style play about betrayal by his wife.

—Kevin Valvardi

"In prison you have to wear a mask," said Padgett, who goes by the name of Luke in prison. "I told myself that it's OK to be open. It's OK to bring these memories up and ride the dragon, as my sister would say. I was

able to ride the dragon and it was rough."

Produced by the Marin Shakespeare Company, the performance was directed by Suraya Susana Keating with assistance from Lesley Currier, founding

managing director of Marin Shakespeare.

"They are so intelligent and have so much depth of feeling," Keating said. "They are brave, they are honest and they are entertaining."

In addition to beckoning cheers from fellow inmates, the performance embodied themes that reflected human emotions that moved visiting audience members and prisoners alike.

"When I'm sad or depressed, I can feel very alone," Novato resident Henry Frummer, 61, told the performers. "Your stories penetrated that. I'll never feel alone again."

Frummer, a host of a zen group at San Quentin, said the vulnerability of the performance evoked his emotional response.

"This play literally changed my life," he said. "I can't look at my tragedies the same ever again."

Prisoners in the audience expressed appreciation for the performance, sharing similar experiences of difficult childhoods and life experiences.

Samuel Hearnes, 34, serving a sentence of 25 to life for second-degree murder, watched the performance to support his friends and find connections between "Hamlet," the prisoners' stories and audience members.

"I'm hoping that people will understand the experiences that led us to get here," Hearnes said. "I hope people see the humanity that still exists within us."

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## Study: Police Should Help Ex-Cons

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Police should help former prisoners reenter their communities, but too often are reluctant to be involved, a Harvard study says.

"Police should embrace the reality of people returning to their communities as a public safety challenge and promote a problem-solving strategy for reducing the re-arrest rates of people coming home from prison," the study concludes.

The study says early police intervention in the reentry process could reduce crime and recidivism.

There are complications to collaboration between community-based rehabilitation programs and police, the report notes: Communities with high crime rates view police

"as agents of an unjust system deeply rooted in a history of racial oppression" and police view those communities "as tolerant of criminal behavior and resistant to police intervention."

The relationship is further complicated because police often view themselves as strictly enforcers of the law and consider additional responsibilities of engaging in the reentry process as contrary to their mission and a waste of limited resources, the study reports.

Early research shows combining police community-based programs in the reentry process have been successful "when intensive supervision was coupled with treatment-oriented programs," according to the study.

After years of increasing prison populations, policy-

makers, elected officials and criminal justice practitioners are belatedly focusing on the consequences.

The Chicago Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative has shown a 37 percent decrease in the homicide rate and the Boston Reentry Initiative showed a 30 percent reduction.

The Harvard study cautions that police should not become an extension of the supervision mission of parole and probation nor should those agencies simply adopt a law enforcement stance. It also notes the subject is still "largely uncharted territory and...still being debated."

The report, *Exploring the Role of the Police in Prisoner Reentry*, can be found at [http://www.hks.harvard.edu/criminaljustice/executive\\_sessions/policy.htm](http://www.hks.harvard.edu/criminaljustice/executive_sessions/policy.htm)

## Journal Seeks Prisoner Writings

The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons is a prisoner written, academically oriented and peer reviewed, non-profit journal, based on the tradition of the penal press.

The journal is currently seeking submissions.

Submission guidelines may be obtained by writing to either:

Journal of Prisoners on Prisons  
c/o Justine Piché, PhD  
Department of Criminology  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
KIN 6N5

or

San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
Re: Prisoners on Prisons

## Private Prison Corporations Seek Tough Laws for Immigrants

### MILLIONS SPENT LOBBYING CONGRESS TO INCREASE IMMIGRANT DETENTIONS

By Kris Himmelberger  
Journalism Guild

Private prison companies are spending millions of dollars lobbying congressional lawmakers to pass legislation that increases immigrant custody, according to the Associated Press.

"It's a millionaire's business, and they are living off profits

from each one of the people who go through there every single night," said Pedro Guzman, a former detainee in a Corrections Corporation of America facility.

This year alone, U.S. taxpayers will pay private companies more than \$2 billion to detain 400,000 immigrants, according to the AP.

In the last decade, CCA, the GEO Group, and Management and Training Corporation spent roughly \$45 million on campaign donations and lobbyists at the state and federal level, according to the AP.

Top recipients were the Republican and Democratic parties, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Republican House Speaker John

Boehner, Kentucky Rep. Hal Rogers and former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

Brain Evans, the chief financial officer for the GEO Group, told investors: "Another factor driving growth... for the private sector is in the area of immigration and illegal immigration specifically," the AP reported.

A decade ago, the Federal Bureau of Prisons signed two 10-year contracts to pay CCA \$760 million to house more than 3,300 criminal immigrants. The FBP is now under 13 different contracts with private prison companies, housing more than 23,000 criminal immigrants. The taxpayer cost of the contracts is \$5.1 billion.

# Bay Area Women Support Veterans

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

The academic futures of some deserving students are looking a little brighter after two Bay Area women donated \$2,000 to a scholarship award program operated by the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin.

Marcy Orosco and Marlynn Murphy donated the money. Since 2009, they have annually contributed to the vets' scholarship fund.

This year, Orosco presented their check to an appreciative group of vets.

The Veteran's group award annual scholarships to children of military families. Since their first award of \$1,000 in 1990, they have provided nearly \$45,000 to 35 students. Their donations totaled nearly \$90,000 to a variety of charitable causes.

## S.F. Launches Neighborhood Courts

By Mehera Reiter  
Contributing Writer

San Francisco's Neighborhood Courts were created by the District Attorney's Office as a means to use restorative justice to reduce recidivism and increase community input into low-level crimes in the city. Neighborhood Courts began adjudicating its first cases in June 2011.

It allows those directly affected by low-level crimes to have a say in their community and decide how they can use this experience to help the participant not re-offend by creating ties with the community and addressing their needs in a more effective way than incarceration and punishment.

A Neighborhood Court usually includes three panelists to meet with a participant.

## Project REACH Recognizes Achievements

Continued from Page 1

"My motivation to be involved with Project REACH is the zeal to help others achieve greatness and for me to be an example to youngsters who want an education," said Kevin Carr, secretary of the group who has been with the program since 2007.

Danny Cox said working as a project tutor has given him the opportunity "to enrich others' lives as well as to make sure every individual who pursues a GED can accomplish their goal."



Marcy Orosco and V.V.G.S.Q. Sponsor Lt. Evans

Orosco is director of Harbor House, a program that assists veterans and their families. She said she also works with the Veterans Administration to help find housing and specialized programs for veterans in more than 10 counties.

"She has been monumental in helping vets find housing and jobs upon discharge from prison," commented Ron Self, then chairman of the veterans' group. He lauded her "unwavering loyalty to vets."

Orosco said her VA connections bolstered her ability to assist veterans. "I'm the only person in the Bay Area that will

house a vet in 24 hours," she said.

Expressing sentiments of the group, one member said, "Recognizing the charity she has given us is long overdue."

The incarcerated vets also give toys to needy children at Christmas time, provide care packages for deployed service members, recycle used soda tabs for money to support disadvantaged families of hospitalized children, and collect used stamps for use in the physical rehabilitation of injured veterans.

*The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin web site is <http://vvgsq.tripod.com>*

Panelists are community volunteers who are trained in restorative justice, cultural competency and facilitating community panels for misdemeanors and infractions.

Neighborhood Courts are not meant to be punishment, but to be reparative.

Offenders become participants, the judges are community panelists, and participants are not convicted, but are given directives.

Courts meet in neighborhood's community centers throughout San Francisco.

The community and the participant discuss the incident, the impact and harm upon the community, and what the person thinks they should do to make things right with the community.

The panelists then decide a creative and non-punitive directive for the participant. The

participant has one month to complete their directive. If they do not re-offend within a year, the violation will disappear from their criminal record.

*—Mehera Reiter is a volunteer Neighborhood Court panelist in San Francisco. She has been a panelist for about a year. Reiter says, "It is a great thing for the community."*

ily members are six times less likely to be involved in prison rules violations, according to a study by the Washington State Department of Corrections. Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Corrections said inmates who receive visits from relatives and clergy are 13 percent less likely to recidivate.

From 1973 until early 2011, the state's free bus visitation program helped families stay connected, the report says. However, budget restraints ended the program.

The goal of the service is to "preserve, enhance, and strengthen relationships between incarcerated individuals and their family and friends," the report says. In addition, the program provides "transportation to those who could not otherwise afford to make the expensive and often lengthy trips on their own."

Incarcerated people who received regular visits from fam-

New York prison officials say the reduction in recidivism saves the state (in prison cost) \$60,076 annually per person.

The report says that New York's free visitation buses "promotes public safety and a safer correctional environment, but also the well-being of New York's children and families."

"By reinstating the bus program and increasing its usage, New York can make better use of public resources while affirming its commitment to successful prisoner reentry and long-term public safety," the report concludes.

## Prison Receivership

Continued from Page 1

The case arose from a prisoners' lawsuit claiming prison healthcare was unconstitutionally poor and constituted cruel and unusual punishment. Henderson agreed. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld his decision.

The state responded with its realignment plan, which keeps low-level offenders in county jails, rather than sending them to state prison.

"The end of the receivership will be based on need and not

within a specific timeline," the receiver, J. Clark Kelso, said in a statement.

State officials said they respectfully disagree with the judge.

"The state has demonstrated through its progress in its medical delivery, and recent success in mental and dental health delivery, that it has the will, the leadership and capacity to resume full responsibility," said Terry Thornton, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

## Palo Alto Honors Lewis

Continued from Page 1

tion as a certified master facilitator.

He worked with a variety of people, from substance abusers to former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown to former President Bill Clinton.

Lonnie Morris, a current San Quentin inmate, said he met Lewis in the early '80s. Lewis was serving a 10-year-to-life sentence.

Morris said he remembers the day Lewis told him how the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake changed his life.

"David and I were standing in the South Block Rotunda," Morris said. "We ran out because we thought the air-ducts were going to fall on us."

Morris said the correctional officers went to the upper yard, leaving several inmates in their cells unattended. "I've got to stay out of here," Morris said. Lewis told him. "I don't ever want to be in a situation where someone has so much control over my life," Lewis concluded.

Julie Lifshay recalled working with Lewis in a San Quentin self-help program called Breaking Barriers, which teaches participants to change their thinking by using a cognitive reality model.

"He was training us on the Breaking Barriers concept," said Lifshay. She added that the newly named building "keeps his name and spirit going."

The building at 2277 University Ave. offers ex-convicts assistance in re-entry.

Lewis's name will appear on all relevant documents, signs and materials, according to a resolution passed unanimously by the East Palo Alto City Council.

Acting City Manager Ron Davis said Lewis' leadership gave credibility to the program, which provides housing, substance abuse treatment and job training and placement to released prisoners, reported the Palo Alto Daily News.

Gregory Elarms, 59, a childhood friend, is accused of the killing. He was recently found mentally competent to stand trial.



Project Reach event attendees



# T.R.U.S.T. Fellows Annual Health Fair

*Continued from Page 1*

cer, and Bay Area health care providers.

One of the most well-attended booths in the gym was run by San Quentin's dental services, which offered information on oral hygiene, sign-up sheets for dental exams, and — the most popular perk — a free toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

"A lot of people are ignoring their dental health," said Amir Zia, a San Quentin dental hygienist. "Dental disease can affect a person's systemic health."

The dental booth "helped me out a lot," said Donte Walker, a 20-something inmate as he held his new toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

The chiropractor station was also popular. The credo of the chiropractic profession, said chiropractor volunteer Ian Davis said, is "to give, to love, to serve just for the sake of giving, loving and caring, without the expectation of anything in return."

"This is one of the most peaceful missions we do," said Davis, who has participated in the Health Fair for the past three years.

First-time volunteer Adam Tedler, a chiropractor from Atlanta, Ga., said he didn't know



Steve McAllister has his blood pressure checked by medical volunteers

what to expect but found the experience "awesome" and full of "positive energy."

Inmate Ed Ballenger said the long wait in line would be worth it. "I remember a back adjustment I had a couple of years ago; it was great," he said.

Tai chi instructor Bob Franklin said, "The movements in tai chi are designed to work on the internal organs. The exercises help us remember how to use the body correctly."

Dr. Tootell and prisoner Clinton Martin signed up inmates to a 16-week class in diabetes management. Participants are given electronic monitors to track their blood sugar level, which they can keep as long as they are housed at San Quentin.

Dr. Tootell said she is also seeking to hire a case manager to administer a program that will identify inmates who need follow-up medical treatment or clinical care.

Patient advocate Raney Dixon, R.N., lectured on the importance of having an advanced directive in place for inmates in case of medical complications. Advanced directives give doctors specific instructions in case an inmate is incapacitated or comatose and a care-giving decision has to be made.

Dixon said she was hired because of the Brown v. Plata court decision in 2004. She said there have been great improvements in the inmate health care; however, there is room to grow as long as people continue to suffer unnecessarily.

Transitional case manager Naomi Prochovnick supervised a Centerforce booth, providing inmates with pamphlets about hepatitis, HIV and AIDS.

Prochovnick has worked for Centerforce for two years. She said that the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare) "would be a fabulous thing." However, she said, "California is ahead of the game" with programs such as Healthy San Francisco and Healthy Pact in Alameda.

Centerforce provided medical referral forms for prisoners scheduled to be released within the next several months. The Affordable Health Care Act will provide health services to those coming out of prison who would otherwise be left out of the system. "Hopefully, it will make it easier to extend health care services," said Dr. Jonas Hines of the University California at San Francisco and San Francisco General Hospital.

Dr. Emily Hurstak said doctors from UCSF came to the

A local resident and doctor of philosophy student, Locks came in with the Black Nurses Association, a group that is dedicated to helping others. Locks noted, "Prison is not a healthy environment for longevity," adding, "I'm very much impressed with the TRUST Fellows."

Correctional Officer Chattman said it first seemed like "controlled chaos" as nearly the whole mainline population turned out for the event. The popularity of the annual fair created a bigger security concern for correctional staff this year due to the influx of new prisoners from other prisons.

Some officers perceive the Health Fair as something "above and beyond" what is ordinarily proscribed for prisoners, Chattman explained, but "if the inmate learns something about taking care of themselves, it benefits the whole system, even the COs."

One of the highlights of the event was presentation of Giraffe Awards to three community volunteers: Kathleen Jackson of TRUST, Leslie Schoenfeld of Healthcare Frontier and Mildred Crear of the Bay Area Black Nurses.

"Kathleen sees the beauty in every living soul," Chavez said as he handed the crystal plaque engraved with a giraffe.

"It's the only time in my life, I'm tall," said Jackson.

Chavez explained the award analogizes the advantage of being a giraffe:

The giraffe has the largest heart of all land animals. It is a caring animal.



Clinton Martin staffing the diabetic program table



Naomi Prochovnick offers advice about HIV/AIDS



Arnold Chavez looks on as Kathleen Jackson receives her Giraffe Award from Michael Shaw

Often people think they are too busy to practice meditation, said Axel. But, "inside prison, people have an opportunity to develop themselves." If they adopt a practice of meditation and stress reduction techniques, a person will usually "take on a new attitude on things," he added.

Another volunteer, Salamah Locks, a recently retired Navy commander, was visiting San Quentin for the first time. "It won't be my last," she said. "I'm more than happy to share my skill and knowledge."

The giraffe has never been on the endangered species list.

The giraffe has every color in the rainbow in its hide — reflective of every culture.

If a giraffe were put in a box with other animals, its head would stick outside the box. So, the giraffe can think outside of the box.

The tallness of the giraffe enables it to see afar — giving it the ability to plan into the future.

The giraffe is a good fighter. If attacked, the stronger animals form a circle to protect the weakest.

# Cinematographer Shares His Perspective on Life

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

Ruben Ramirez spends his days behind the lens of a camera capturing the lives of inmates at San Quentin. His work as a cinematographer has given him a unique look into aspects of his own life.

**'All I used to do was take in life... Now I want to give back'**

Ramirez said he has always kept people at arms length. However, when filming, he tries to get as close to the individual as possible. "I want to let the world in, but I have something inside me preventing me from doing so, and my camera work has allowed me to see I have this inner desire."

Ramirez says the camera has taught him to see life from a new perspective. He views his camera work as an art.

Life has not always been easy for Ramirez. He was born in Pecos, Texas, the son of migrant farm workers. He spent the better part of his childhood following the harvest with his father, mother, eight brothers, and three sisters. When he was about three years old, his family moved to California, eventually settling in the tiny town of Firebaugh, in Fresno County.

In his 54 years of life, Ramirez has held down many jobs, including migrant farm laborer, material handler, and industrial maintenance mechanic.

Before coming to prison in 2007, he says he was an angry, judgmental, and self-centered individual. Now serving a sentence of 15 years to life for



which, he said, "I will have to work on for the rest of my life, but that is OK with me."

He says he stays focused on his goals by surrounding himself with people who have a positive attitude about life. "I have met some of the best people in life at San Quentin," he observed.

While in San Quentin, Ramirez completed the vocational sheet metal training program. He has also completed Non-Violent Communications and Impact, and attends Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Victim Offender Education Group and various Bible study groups. He said these self-help programs have given him insight into what led him to prison.

Ramirez says his transformation has inspired him to become a volunteer when released. "All I used to do was take in life," he said. "Now I want to give back."

Ruben Ramirez cradling one of the tools of his craft

gross vehicular manslaughter, Ramirez is determined to change.

Ramirez says he is working on becoming a humble, patient, and considerate person. Traits

## Restorative Justice Program Marks 8 Years at S.Q.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN ROUNDTABLE ON ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

"It's a lousy way to meet wonderful people," said a sponsor of San Quentin's Restorative Justice Program.

Restorative Justice is a non-traditional way of dealing with criminal offenders. It allows crime victims and offenders to engage in discussions.

Although the Restorative Justice program at San Quentin does not connect victims with the actual perpetrator of the crime committed against them, the dialogue gives offenders the opportunity to understand the damage they've done from the perspective of a victim.

Practitioners of Restorative Justice say crime is viewed as a violation of dignity and relationships. It seeks justice by identifying and repairing the needs of victims, the community, and offenders. Restorative Justice promotes responsibility in all areas of the criminal justice system.

San Quentin began holding Restorative Justice Symposia in 2004.

This year's symposium was held at the prison's Catholic Chapel and was hosted by prisoner Troy Williams.

About 75 prisoners held round table discussions with about 50 community members to practice the tenets of restorative justice. "What we try to do at the round

table is bring together elements of Restorative Justice," said Williams.

is more inclusion of victims in the administration of justice."

J. "Crash" Randall attended his third symposium. "I'm a two-striker, and I don't want to catch my third strike," he said. "I hope by coming to the symposiums and meeting people from the streets, I can learn something that will keep me out of prison."

Of the 75 prisoners who attended the symposium, about 60 were lifers.

One of the goals of San Quentin's Restorative Justice program is to include more determinate sentenced offenders, said the program's founder, Christina Hotchkiss.

"Just compare the recidivism rate of determinate against in-

determinate sentences," Hotchkiss said. "The recidivism rate for lifers is about .04 percent, while seven out of 10 determinate sentenced offenders return to prison."

A representative from Santa Rita Jail who facilitates restorative justice classes said when she first began classes, few men signed up. She challenged the inmates to "man-up" and be accountable for their actions.

"Can you really have accountability, if you don't know who you are," said another sponsor. "Healing and accountability are linked. It is a huge part of restorative justice. You can't have accountability, if you don't know yourself."

## Qi Gong and Tai Chi Promote Good Health in San Quentin

By Sa Tran  
Contributing Writer

The ninth annual T.R.U.S.T. Health Fair brought the ancient Chinese practices of Qi Gong and Tai Chi to San Quentin to help connect the mind and body and find inner balance and peace.

On Aug. 17 on San Quentin's Lower Yard, the men in blue received much-needed information about the different ways to improve individual health and well-being.

Ben Wang, Kasi Chakravartula, and Eddy Zheng of Oakland's Asian Pacific Islander community brought a team that specializes in the practice of Qi Gong. Ru, Debra and Christina were some of the instructors who taught Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Inmate Chris Scull said of Qi Gong: "It centers me, it relaxes me, and it takes me away from my everyday prison stress."



Prisoners receive Qi Gong instruction at the Health Fair

"I didn't believe it at first, but when I tried it, it helped me with my lower back pains and it helped me with my bad knees," said inmate Glen "Dragon" Tufuga, 54. He added, "The moves were gentle and the exercises

were not strenuous; it was exactly what I needed."

This was the first time Tai Chi was held at the Health Fair. Similar to Qi Gong, Tai Chi is a practice of breathing exercise coordinated with movements

designed to balance energy throughout the body.

One Tai Chi instructor said, "People often mistake Tai Chi as a form of martial arts; it is an exercise that helps reduce stress and improve health." He ex-

plained that "Tai Chi gives you lots of benefits; it can increase flexibility, energy, stamina, and agility, improves muscle strength and definition, and most importantly, it brings a state of relaxation and calmness."

"As a person who constantly does heavy exercises like pull-ups, push-ups, and squats, after a Tai Chi session, my body felt a sense of muscle relaxation that lasted all day," said one inmate.

"After doing time in eight different prisons and recently transferred from Solano State Prison, I've never experienced an event like this," said inmate Syyen Hong. "I am appreciative to be in San Quentin. Experiences like this make me feel like the outside community still cares."

Hatha Yoga instructor James Fox said he hopes to collaborate with Tai Chi and Qi Gong instructors to conduct a class that includes all three practices.

— Phoeun You contributed to this story.

## SPORTS

# Boxing Interest Up

By Jose Camacho  
Journalism Guild Writer

Expansion of the San Quentin boxing program is being boosted with the help of an experienced boxer who is also a correctional officer.

Correctional Officer M. Polk said he is willing to assist San Quentin inmates with the finer points of boxing, giving them not just boxing skills, but also a sense of direction and discipline. The program will use the existing equipment already in place on the Lower Yard.

At San Quentin, there's been a heightened interest in sports, including boxing, since the conversion of West Block and Donner Block into general population with an influx of inmates from other prisons.

One participant, inmate Gregory Tabarez, said he obtained his boxing experience while at Vacaville from 1983-1985. While there, he was the lead man in the gym, and said he had the opportunity to learn about the science of boxing.

"I received my first set of boxing gloves for my fifth birthday, and on the same day, my older sister, Maria, beat me up with my new boxing gloves," said Tabarez. "But it was the last time she beat me up."

"Boxing is a sport that's open to all races and ages," said trainer Adam Barboza. "However, as trainers, we are particular of who we train. It's hard work and takes dedication; most beginners don't last."

Barboza said that the hard work relieves stress, enhances health, teaches self-control, and introduces discipline.

## Hopson Streaks Home In S.Q. Half-Marathon

By Miguel Quezada  
Journalism Guild Writer

They ran for more than an hour and a half, but the winner sprinted ahead on the last lap to win by just eight seconds.

Terry Phillips led most of the race; however, Lorenzo Hopson overtook him on the last lap to win the race.

"I ran at my training pace," Hopson said about his race strategy. "For training, I sometimes run the half-marathon seven days out of the week. In May I put in nearly 90 miles, stretched out and exercised a lot."

Hopson, 58, logged a winning time of 1:31:55. Phillips, 29, was runner-up at 1:32:03.

Phillips said his training includes running for long periods

to build up his endurance. "I made a lot of good friends" in the 1,000 Mile Club. "They taught me that by working hard, we can accomplish all of the goals that we set for ourselves. That is an important lesson that will help me succeed in society."

Phillips is scheduled to be released on parole in September.

San Quentin's 1,000 Mile Club fielded 27 runners in its annual 52-lap, 13.2-mile race on Aug. 3.

Third Place: Miguel Quezada, 31, with a time of 1:37:18.

Fourth Place: Stephen Yair Leibb, 56, with a time of 1:38:17.

Fifth Place: Larry Ford, 56, with a time of 1:39:35.

— Clinton Martin contributed to this story

## Football Goals Laid Out

The Intramural Flag Football League (IFFL) began its first season last month with four teams, the Main Event, the San Quentin Raiders, the 49ers, and The Untouchables.

The coaches offered their strategies for the upcoming season:

"Our approach is to maximize our potential," said Abdur Raheem (Isaiah Thompson – Bonilla), a player and coach for the Main Event, who has a 5-0 record. "An efficient unit is our priority, and attaining that goal comes by hard work and cognition of the game. We look forward to facing every opponent and competing at a high level every game."

Walter R. Frank Sr., the coach for the San Quentin Raiders, said his approach is to "show-

case the raw talent that has been assembled before us here at San Quentin. We want to be intrepid on the football field and have a diet of just winning. A championship is all we want to taste."

"As the great Vince Lombardi said, 'Winning is not everything, it's the only thing,'" Frank added. Frank's Raiders are 3-2.

Aaron "Imam Jedd" Taylor is the coach for the 49ers, who are 2-3. He said his approach to this first season of the ILFF is to "first and foremost, to have fun."

"Coach K" coaches the Untouchables, who are 0-5. "My approach is to win and to win we must pursue excellence. To be excellent, we will be disciplined," he said.

— Gary Scott



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Ronnie Lott (No. 24) and the "Outsiders" Basketball Team at San Quentin

## NFL Hall of Fame Player Ronnie Lott Holds Court

By Gary "Malachi" Scott  
Sports Editor

Hard-hitting Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott, known for his tenacious defense as a 49er, recently visited San Quentin along with his basketball team called the Outsiders and defeated the San Quentin Kings basketball team 62-59 in comeback fashion.

"I came to play ball and hang with the fellows," said Lott, who patiently signed autographs for prisoners who flocked to the basketball court to see the NFL legend in action. "I've been here four times, but this is my first time playing ball."

He also emphasized that his team came to compete and that the visitors were not intimidated by playing incarcerated men.

The Outsiders started their comeback as Mike Gallagher knocked down a free throw, followed by a Paul Bubble mid-

range jumper. Bubble returned on a fast break lay-up to tie the game 51-51 and followed with a strong put back to give the Outsiders their first lead.

After a Kings jumper by Sean Pierce, Steve Watkin of the Outsiders hit a floater, and then followed with a jumper to increase their lead to 57-53.

*I came to play ball and hang out with the fellows'*

Following a free throw by Paul Davidson, Lott tossed an assist to Gareth Hancock.

The Kings answered as Davidson buried a driving floater.

The Outsiders put the game away as Watkin hit a free throw and Gallagher made two free throws to increase the lead to 62-56.

The Kings' point guard, Brian Asey, buried a three-pointer at the buzzer, but it was too late.

Lott stayed on a few extra minutes signing autographs for the many fans who applauded his visit.

Lott played a year of basketball at the University of Southern California. "This has been a great experience, just hanging with 49er and Raider fans. It's just real," he said.

Kings power forward Davidson commented after their loss: "It was a dream come true to play against Lott. I watched him in college and in the pros. Playing against him is something I will always remember. We were talking trash during the game and I told him this isn't football; this is basketball. If I had to lose a game, I'd rather lose it to Lott. But he added that if the Outsiders return, "we will beat them."

## Running Back Darren McFadden Critical for Raiders' 2012 Season

A critical component to the Oakland Raiders 2012 NFL season is running back Darren McFadden.

The Raiders started last season 3-2 and McFadden was the league's leading rusher with 610 yards.

Week six brought a season-ending injury to quarterback Jason Campbell. McFadden was injured the following week.

Backup running back Michael Bush was decent, however, with McFadden's 4.3 speeds gone, the Raider's rushing attack was not the same. Moreover, McFadden was also a good pass-catcher.

If McFadden stays healthy, the Raiders can be an explosive offense led by quarterback Carson Palmer and his speedy receivers in Darrius Hayward-Bey, Denarius Moore and Jacoby Ford.



Darren McFadden catches a pass in the backfield

In the previous year, McFadden ran for 1,157 yards in 13 games.

As the fourth overall pick in the 2008 NFL Draft, McFadden signed a contract worth \$60

million, including \$27 million in guaranteed money.

The Raiders cannot afford to lose McFadden during a run to the 2012 NFL playoffs.

— Gary Scott

# Feds Side With Native Americans

INMATE USE OF RELIGIOUS TOBACCO

By Jason McGinnis  
Contributing Writer

Federal officials are supporting a Native American claim that denying tobacco to prisoners for religious ceremonies is discriminatory.

In a brief filed in July, the U.S. Department of Justice said the state of South Dakota's position "runs contrary to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and U.S. Supreme Court precedent."

State officials eliminated Native American exemption for tobacco use in its prisons because, they say, "tobacco was being sold or bartered and inmates had been caught separating it from their pipe mixtures and prayer ties," reported The Associated Press.

Native Americans filed a federal lawsuit in 2009 seeking to reverse the South Dakota De-

partment of Correction's ban. A similar lawsuit filed by a San Quentin inmate is pending against the California prison system.

San Quentin Native Americans Reggie Azbill and Chad Holzhouse say they are using kinicknick as a tobacco substitute in their ceremonies. Kinicknick is a blend of herbs, including peppermint, sweet grass, white sage, and cedar.

"Other religions have their Bibles; we have our ceremonial tobacco," Azbill said. "Tobacco is like our Bible. It is the way we get connected with the Creator."

"Smoking the kinicknick is just not the same as tobacco," Holzhouse said. "It's like wearing dirty laundry."

New Mexico and Nevada have smoking bans in their prison systems, but allow the use of tobacco during religious ceremonies, according to the AP report.



Official Photos

The Islamic monument, "Dome of the Rock," located in Jerusalem

## End of Ramadan Celebrated

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

More than 160 Muslims and distinguished guests attended the San Quentin Eid-Ul-Fitr banquet, celebrating the end of the sacred month of Ramadan where all able adherents of the Islamic faith refrain from food and drink during daylight hours for approximately 30 days.

Members of the San Quentin Muslim community who were allowed to participate gathered into the Lower Yard module, joining in prayer and listening to the wisdom of noted scholars and guests who attended the event.

Eid-Ul-Fitr translated to English literally means celebration of "breaking the fast" and is a one-day festival where Muslim come together to thank God, share the message of peace, ask forgiveness, give charity for those who are less fortunate, buy gifts for children and

gather with family and friends in prayer.

"It has moved my heart to see so many of you (prisoners) united in the cause of Allah," said Imam Hamza, a South African-taught scholar from a Mosque across San Francisco Bay in Richmond. "You are worshiping in a time of hardship."

Of the more than 200 Muslims at San Quentin who fasted this year for Ramadan, 95 were recognized for participating in a religious study course taught each evening during Ramadan in the Islamic Chapel by scholar Sheikh Atikur-Rahman. The 60-hour course was recognized and sanctioned by the Tayba Foundations Distance Learning Program. It is the first such course in a United States prison.

"This is a historical event. Never in the history of San Quentin has this many people graduated from a program held in a chapel and sanctioned by an outside Islamic organization,"

the Sheikh reminded the graduates.

The Sheikh also shared the Quranic command that says, "Remind them of the days of God," when divine mercy and divine guidance interact with the daily affairs of Muslims, helping to guide them on a path of success and growth.

After the guests spoke on the blessings that Muslims receive for fasting, the men were treated to a large meal including beef, chicken and rice, much of which was donated by the outside Muslim community.

The Eid-Ul-Fitr is a day of peace where Muslims make peace with God; a day of victory where Muslims overcome the basic human desires for food, water and sex and a day of forgiveness where Muslims are forgiven for their transgressions. The combination of these elements makes this day special in Muslim tradition all around the world, according to Islamic belief.

## Catholic Chapel Opens Again After Water Damage Repairs

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church at San Quentin has reopened after renovations and repairs to damage caused by a leaky roof.

The chapel was closed for a week in July during roof repairs by an outside contractor.

Inside renovations were done by the prison's Plant Operations Department, facilitated by Supervisor Lorraine Hendrix.

The renovations also included the installation of two large, 60-inch, flat-screen monitors on the back wall of the altar area.

The monitors were donated by The Order of Malta in the United States and will be used

to assist congregants in following along with the services. They will also be used for viewing instructional videos used during classes and other activities.

"They're going to be very beneficial to the offerings the church provides us," said Barry Fibiger regarding the new monitors.

## Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin Elects New Leaders

Christopher Schuhmacher has been elected chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin.

Other executive body members elected are Vice Chairman James Snider, Secretary/Treasurer David Basile and Outside Coordinator Greg Sanders.

The VVGSQ is a group at San Quentin made up of hon-

orably discharged veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces from the Korean War through Operation Desert Storm.

Schuhmacher said, "I take a great deal of pride from serving with the men in this group because of their high level of integrity and commitment to the various projects we contribute to throughout the year."

VVGSQ activities include:

- The Holiday Toy Program – The group solicits toy donations to pass out to inmates' kids who visit San Quentin over the holidays.
- Operation Moms – The veterans join forces with the moms group from outside of the prison to make care packages to send to troops overseas.
- Veterans Scholarship Award – VVGSQ donates money raised from food sales to help the children of veterans pay for the increasing college costs.
- Persons interested in joining should obtain an application from one of the Members-at-Large and return it with an embossed copy of their DD-214.

Members-At-Large may be found in the following locations:

North Block- Ernie Vick 2 N 16L

H-Unit - John Warren 4 H 65L

West Block and Donner - Craig Johnson 4 W 63L

# District Attorneys Differ on Prison Realignment

LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO OFFICIALS TAKE OPPOSITE POSITIONS

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

Los Angeles and San Francisco counties are taking different approaches to the state's prison realignment plan.

San Francisco officials view realignment as an opportunity to improve public safety: Los Angeles officials see it as a burden.

"It is predictably the worst thing that is going to happen to the public in my 40-year career," said Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley. San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon said, "Our system is screaming for a new way of doing business."

Each county was required to submit a realignment Implementation Plan to county supervisors for housing inmates who are convicted of non-violent,

non-serious, or non-high-risk sex offenses.

Counties take on the added responsibility for supervising the release of these inmates, plus anyone sentenced before realignment went into effect and is currently housed in state prison. Realignment also transitions responsibility for all state parole violation revocation hearings to the counties, except inmates released from life sentences as of July 1, 2013. The counties will also be responsible for housing these violators.

The Los Angeles plan states, "This shift is monumental and will not only mark a challenge for the Sheriff's Department, but also the District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services, Superior Court, and all municipalities."

San Francisco's Implementation Plan mentions nothing about realignment being a challenge. The plan states "this policy initiative ... is intended to improve success rates of offenders under supervision, resulting in less victimization and increased community safety."

Los Angeles designated its Probation Department as the lead agency in charge of the inmates being released into the county's custody. The department plans to develop an individualized plan for each post-release supervised person within 30 days, according to its Implementation Plan.

San Francisco is also planning to allow its Probation Department to play a key role in managing the realignment population. Probation Department personnel would meet with inmates at least 60 days before they are

released from jail "to ensure a smooth transition at the time of the prisoner's release."

Los Angeles' Implementation Plan outlines four possible options for the increase in jail population. The county plans to send 500 inmates to the privately owned Community Correction Facilities; allow 6,680 inmates to participate in community-based alternatives such as station work, work release, and electronic monitoring; send 700 inmates to county fire camps; and add 4,300 more jail beds.

San Francisco's Sheriff's Department "will maximize county jail capacity and utilize alternatives to incarceration through the Department's Community Programs Division. By expanding the sheriff's authority in the use of home detention and electronic monitoring, the Board of Supervisors will provide additional al-

ternatives to incarceration to be utilized for both the pretrial and sentenced populations."

Both counties show a concern for the homeless population of ex-inmates. The Los Angeles plan says "an attempt will be made to locate a temporary 'Homeless Shelter' for the (inmate) before his/her release." San Francisco County's plan says the county will seek to provide released prisoners with permanent housing.

Los Angeles County is projected to handle 9,000 individuals in the first year under realignment. San Francisco is projected to receive 700 in the first year of realignment.

The Los Angeles plan says the District Attorney's Office estimates 50 people a year are sentenced to terms around 25 years in the county jail for some minor category crimes.

**1. SAN QUENTIN —** A Death Row inmate has been found dead in his San Quentin cell, apparently a suicide, Lt. Sam Robinson reports. Kenneth Friedman, 58, was awaiting execution from the murders of two men in Los Angeles. Since California reinstated capital punishment in 1978, 57 condemned men died from natural causes, 21 committed suicide and 13 were executed. There are 728 prisoners on California's Death Row.

**2. LOS ANGELES —** The federal government has agreed to pay \$425,000 to an inmate who contracted valley fever at the Taft Correctional Institution after he was transferred from New York in 2005. The prisoner, Arjang Panah has since been released.

**3. BOISE, Idaho. —** The Idaho Department of Correction has transferred 130 inmates to Kit Carson Correctional Center in Burlington, Colo. because Idaho's prison don't have enough room to hold the state's growing inmate population. Idaho's inmate population topped 8,000 for the first time in April.

**4. FORT WORTH, Texas. —** A man who spent 24 years in prison has been freed after DNA evidence cleared him in the rape of a 14-year-old girl. David Lee Wiggins said, "I always believed the truth would come out."

**5. CORONA —** Fourteen female inmates have graduated from a self-help program that teaches women about choices they did not know were available to them in previous environments. The program has a 3.5 percent recidivism rate among the 114 participants who have paroled. The program is Choice Theory Connection Program at California Institution for Women.

**6. TUCKER, Ark. —** Department of Corrections officials say about 260 prisoners



were isolated with a stomach virus or food poisoning at the Tucker Unit Prison, reports The Associate Press. Officials suspect a highly contagious virus because some of the prisoners who were sickened did not eat the suspect food.

**7. BALTIMORE, Md. —** The Baltimore Sun reports juveniles detained at the city jail say there is little supervision from correctional officers, which allows regular attacks among detainees.

**8. CHICAGO, Ill. —** A City Council committee has signed off on settlements in two lawsuits against police torture cases, according to The Associated Press. More than \$5 million would go to Michael Tillman, who said police tortured him for four days until he confessed to a murder, of which he was later exonerated.

He spent more than 23 years in prison. David Fauntleroy would get \$1.8 million for the 25 years he spent in prison for a 1983 double murder that was

dropped in 2009. Former Police Commander Jon Burge is serving 4 1/2 years in prison for lying about the torture allegations. The settlements require full City Council approval.

**9. OAKLAND —** The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation recently held a public forum to solicit suggestions for improving rehabilitation programs for inmates and parolees, reports the Oakland Tribune. "We are rebuilding our rehabilitation programs," said Bill Sessa, a CDCR spokesperson. "We have a very clear understanding of the price everybody pays for the high recidivism rate. All the programs we're putting in place are based on research and the latest scientific evidence that we have."

**10. COMPTON —** Former Mayor Omar Bradley's corruption conviction was tossed out by an appeals court. The court said his trial failed to prove he meant to break the law, according to The Los Angeles Times.

**11. SAN FRANCISCO —** The California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that a defendant who represented himself in a 1994 hearing to determine whether he is mentally competent to stand trial should be reevaluated or receive a new trial, reports the San Francisco Chronicle. The court said legal representation during competency hearings "is consistent with upholding the dignity and autonomy of the defendant and, more importantly, protects not only the fairness of the proceedings but also the appearance of fairness." The ruling came in an appeal of the 1995 conviction of Christopher Charles Lightsey, who was sentenced to death for burglarizing, robbing and murdering 76-year-old William Compton, the Chronicle reports.

**12. TALLAHASSEE, Fla. —** Nearly 18,000 former prison inmates may not know their voting rights have been restored and are eligible to cast a ballot this year, according to a

report in The Associated Press. Notices were mailed. However, they were undeliverable.

**13. AUBURN, Ind. —** The Indiana Supreme Court overturned Williman Spranger's death sentence for killing a marshal in 1995. He was then sentenced to 60 years in prison. He completed his sentence after good-time credits and educational achievements were calculated. He will have to wear an electronic monitoring device for a year.

**14. BOSTON —** Families of jail and prison inmates want an investigation of Securus Technologies of Dallas and Global Tel Link, claiming they charge excessive rates for telephone use and service is poor, reports The Associated Press.

**15. LANSING, Mich. —** State officials are soliciting bids for a three-year contract to provide medical services to its 43,000 prisoners, according to The Associated Press. The move is part of a privatization effort to replace 1,300 state employees, officials said. Services would include physical and mental care, wound care, treatment of heart disease and diabetes, dental care, optometry and sex offender treatment, reports The Detroit Free Press.

**16. ST. PAUL, Minn. —** Prison officials are considering new garden plots in medium-security prisons next spring under a new state law. The foodstuff grown will help feed a minimum-security unit and families who get food from a local food bank, according to The Associated Press.

**17. HARRISBURG, Pa. —** State officials are implementing a new law designed to modernize its parole interviewing technique so more parolees will get into halfway house rehabilitation. The new approach is expected to save \$253 million in five years, according to the State Republican Caucus.



# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Patten University at San Quentin started its 2012 Fall Semester just after the Labor Day weekend. For some of the men serving time on the Mainline, enrolling in a college program and earning a degree are major steps in their rehabilitation. However, for those who have earned their Associate of Arts degree from Patten U., what is next?

Asked On The Line conducted informal interviews with 12 Patten graduates and asked, "Now that you've earned an A.A. degree, will you seek a higher degree? What will your major be?"

Most of the men who were interviewed want a higher degree.

Michael Tyler is presently pursuing his bachelor's degree, but is undecided on the major. "It will be in business management, psychology, or communications.

I haven't made up my mind yet," said Tyler.

Felix Lucero wants to earn a bachelor's degree in business and study culinary arts. Ke Lam wants to earn a bachelor's degree in either child development or kinesiology.

Bobby Evans wants to earn a master's degree in social work. "I think it's important for incarcerated people. Education will help us stay out of prison. That means that we become responsible; we keep jobs, pay taxes, and become better parents. There needs to be higher education in prisons," said Evans.

Kenyatta Leal, the 2011 valedictorian, said he wants to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science, but not right now. "Right now, I'd like to enroll in a computer coding academy, be a computer programmer, and be an evangelist for The Last Mile program so that it can be worldwide," said Leal.

The 2012 valedictorian, Chris Schuhmacher, wants to earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, but was unsure of a master's degree. "I'm taking it one step at a time," said Schuhmacher.

James Houston wants to earn a bachelor's degree in business to learn how to operate a non-profit organization that helps at-risk youth.

Robert Frye, also a valedictorian, has not decided how high a degree he wants to earn, but he said it would be in psychology.

Valeray Richardson wants to earn a doctor of philosophy in a Christian seminary and Jonathan Wilson wants a doctorate in psychology.

Paul Chen said he is not planning to seek a higher degree, but he would major in whatever Patten offers. Only one Patten graduate, David Monroe, said he is not interested in earning any higher degrees.

## Tax Initiative Props. 30 vs. 38

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

Gov. Jerry Brown's Proposition 30 ballot proposal is aimed at funding public schools, prison realignment, and reducing the state's debt. A competing measure, Proposition 38, by tax attorney Molly Monger, focuses on public school financing and reducing the state's debt.

Brown's plan would raise state income taxes on persons making more than \$250,000 a year for seven years and raise the state's sales tax rates for four years.

The Legislative Analyst says Brown's plan would generate about \$6 billion. After paying minimum guaranteed amounts for higher education and prison realignment, the remaining funds would be used to reduce the state budget, the analyst concludes.

Brown's 2012-13 Budget Summary says the tax increase would generate \$6.9 billion. It states that after paying minimum guaranteed money to the schools, \$4.4 billion would be available in "net benefit to the General Fund."

The Brown plan includes a state constitutional amendment that would extend the current vehicle-licensing fee and increase the sales tax by one-half percent to pay for prison realignment.

Realignment is Brown's plan of confining low-level offenders in county jails instead of state prison.

"In 2010-11, before realignment, CDCR managed all imprisoned and paroled felons with a budget of \$8.9 billion. In 2012-13, the state paid both CDCR and local governments to manage this same population, a combined cost of \$9.8 billion (\$8.9 billion for CDCR and \$857 million for local governments). Thus, the cost for managing this felon population has increased as a result of realignment," according to a report by the Public Policy Institute of California.

It remains unclear what overall effect the Brown plan would have on both state and local finances because some of these actions would shift costs from local governments to the state, and others do the opposite, according to a report by Insure the Uninsured Project.

The Monger plan would increase personal income tax rates on most individual earners; lower earning individuals would pay a lower tax rate than higher earning individuals. The tax would stay in place for 12 years.

The Monger plan would generate an estimated \$10 billion in 2013-14.

In the first four years of Monger's plan, 60 percent of funds

would go to K-12 schools, 30 percent to repay the state debt, and 10 percent to early childhood programs. Thereafter, 85 percent would go to K-12 schools, and 15 percent to early childhood programs, according to official estimates.

Revenues generated from the Monger plan would be allocated on a "school-specific, per-pupil basis, subject to local control, audits, and public input."

Officials say without the proposed tax increase, "trigger cuts" of about \$6 billion would occur automatically, 90 percent affecting schools and community colleges.

The remaining cuts would be in the University of California, California State University, Department of Developmental Services, city police department grants, CalFire, the Department of Water Resources flood control programs, local water safety patrol grants, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Justice law enforcement programs.

If both measures pass, the California Constitution specifies that the provisions of the measure receiving more "yes" votes prevail. Proposition 30 and Proposition 38 both increase personal income tax rates and, as such, could be viewed as conflicting, the Legislative Analyst reports.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

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San Quentin, CA 94974

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

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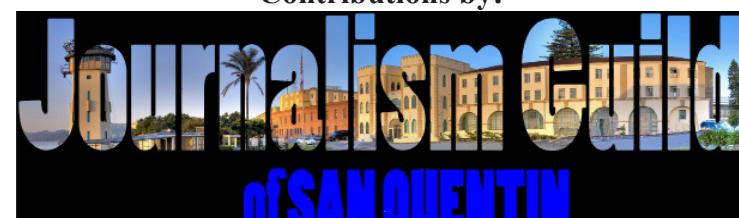
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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**July 16, 1971**— To celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, a fight card hosting seven title bouts was held in San Quentin's Skyline Gym.

**July 23, 1971**— Officer L. G. Davis, 38, was fatally stabbed in Newmiller Hospital (the old San

Quentin hospital) during an assault by an unknown number of assailants.

**July 23, 1971**— An inmate confined to the wired-in area of B section was discovered missing from his cell, triggering an institution-wide count. The in-

mate was later found hiding in the cell of another inmate on the same tier.

**July 23, 1971**— A handball team comprised of players from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps defeated San Quentin's top handball players, 11-5.

# San Quentin News

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POPULATION 3,853

Kevin R. Chappell  
Was Confirmed as San Quentin's Warden  
On September 26, 2012



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Mark Jackson attempts a pass between defenders

## NBA Hall of Famer Plays on Prison Yard

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

NBA Hall of Famer and Golden State Warriors basketball coach Mark Jackson and Golden State Warriors General Manager Bob Myers brought their basketball team, the Outsiders, to play the San Quentin Warriors and cruised to a 114-98 win.

"The San Quentin Warriors are great guys, great workers. I'm humbled and privileged to be a little bit of a light," Jackson said after the game. He won the Rookie of the Year award in 1988 with the New York Knicks.

Strong play and second chance points by the Outsiders helped them maintain their lead throughout the game, especially in the fourth quarter.

See *Outsiders* on Page 8

In Loving  
Memory  
Of  
Dennis  
(Bubba)  
Wright



August 24, 1974-September 24, 2012

## State Senator Supports National Recovery Week

By Kris Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

At San Quentin's annual celebration of addiction recovery, prisoners honored two prominent California politicians for their support of public safety activities.

State Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates, received commemorative plaques. Two community-based addiction programs, Options Recovery Services and Support 4 Recovery were also acknowledged for their support of San Quentin's Addiction Recovery Counseling program.

Prisoners certified through the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors along with community volunteers organized the event on the prison's Lower Yard. Newly appointed Warden Kevin Chappell and his staff also attended.

The California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs estimates three million people in the state need treatment for substance use disorders.



Photo by Ernest Woods

Options Director Bobby Miller, Warden Kevin Chappell and Senator Loni Hancock

"ARC is a tremendous program," said Hancock. "It helps the inmates, both participants

See *San Quentin* on Page 4

## Space Shuttle's Last Flight Soars Over the Institution

By Jose Camacho  
Journalism Guild Writer

On the morning of Sept. 21, the Endeavor space shuttle flew over the state prison mounted atop a Boeing 747 with an escort by an F-16 fighter jet, surprising about 500 inmates on San Quentin's Lower Yard.

"It was flying so low, it felt like I could reach up and touch it," said inmate Frankie Smith.

The unexpected event took place while inmates played sports or walked counter-clockwise on the outer edges of the yard, on what was supposed to be an ordinary Friday morning in prison.

As the aircrafts approached, the sound of jet engines silenced the crowded yard. The



Shuttle Endeavor viewed from outside the prison

men stood still, eyes skyward, following the east to west flight path of the aircraft. Prisoners held their hands on their foreheads to block the sun's glare as

the shuttle's scorched insulation tiles were visible to the inmates for about 14 seconds as it passed over.

See *Shuttle* on Page 4

## Millions of Felons Denied Voting Rights

By San Quentin News Staff

On Nov. 6, an estimated 5.85 million Americans could be kept away from the ballot box due to felony convictions, according to a report by a criminal justice reform advocacy group. The Sentencing Project estimates 75 percent of disenfranchised felons are no longer incarcerated.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1974 that states have the constitutional authority to restrict voting by convicted felons.

The voting irregularities of the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections drew nationwide attention to the estimated five million Americans barred from voting by a variety of state laws that deny people with criminal re-

cords the right to vote — sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently.

Voting rights of felons and ex-felons are restricted in 48 states. Maine and Vermont are the only states that extend voting rights to incarcerated Americans.

See *Voting Rights* on Page 4



## Flu Vaccinations Are Coming In October, November



San Quentin medical officials are urging all residents to be vaccinated against influenza and pertussis, both serious respiratory illnesses that can spread easily in a prison environment.

Vaccination clinics will be held in various housing units throughout October and November. Dates will be announced for individual units.

"Influenza is a serious illness," said Public Health Nurse Allyson Tabor. "Between 30,000 and 49,000 people die each year from flu. Pertussis, commonly called whooping cough, is highly contagious. It is also potentially dangerous."

"Anyone can get sick from flu, and in a crowded setting like a prison, it can spread rapidly. Flu can cause high fever, pneumonia and worsen existing medical conditions," Tabor warned. "While the flu can make anyone sick, certain of us are at a greater risk for serious complications from the flu, causing hospitalization or even death."

Persons at higher risk include those 65 or older or have certain health conditions, including chronic lung diseases such as asthma and COPD, diabetes, heart, lung or kidney disease, a weakened immune system and certain other long-term medical conditions, Tabor said.

Flu symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

Tabor said the first and most important step in protecting against the flu is to get a flu vaccine each fall. Here are some things to consider:

- Flu vaccine protects against influenza. It will not protect against other respiratory viruses that may have similar symptoms to the flu.
- Some people should talk with a doctor before getting an influenza vaccine, including those with severe allergy to chicken eggs, those with an allergic reaction to flu vaccines in the past, and those who have ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness).

Dr. Elena Tootell, chief medical executive at San Quentin, recommends that every inmate get vaccinated as soon as the vaccine is available in their clinic.

"Vaccination early in the season is best to make sure you're protected during the peak flu season," Dr. Tootell said. "Our residents here should get vaccinated as soon as possible and we will offer vaccinations to all incoming inmates throughout the flu season, from October through May. As long as flu viruses are spreading in the outside community, there is every chance of a flu epidemic in the prison as well."

Pertussis leaves its victims literally gasping for air. At first, this great imitator might seem like a common cold: runny nose, fever and cough. After a week or two, pertussis infection progresses to worse symptoms: thick, gluey mucous and extreme coughing spells.

In these fits people can literally cough so hard and long that they throw up or turn blue because they can't breathe. Victims of pertussis make a gasping "whoop" sound when they suck in air after a coughing fit. The coughing lasts for weeks.

In a prison, this means one sick resident can infect an entire dorm.

"Protect yourself, your fellow inmates and your family members who may visit you by getting vaccinated," Dr. Tootell said. "The Centers for Disease Control recommend that all adults receive one dose of Tdap, which also contains vaccine for tetanus and diphtheria. Thereafter, every 10 years you will only need to receive a tetanus booster."

She reported the vaccine is safe and a sore arm is the most common reaction.

## Report: Counties Better Than State at Supervising Parolees

By N. T. Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

A recent report by the state's chief probation officers suggests that county probation departments are doing a better job of supervising released felons than the state's parole department.

A report by the Chief Probation Officers of California looked at the first six months of the state's realignment of prisoners, which included statistics from all 58 counties.

Between October 2011 and March of this year, just 4 percent of felons released from state prisons and placed under county probation lost contact with their probation officers, requiring an arrest warrant to be issued, according to the re-

port. During the same period 14 percent of those released from prison on parole and supervised by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole agents lost contact.

The realignment program implemented by CDCR and created by Gov. Jerry Brown shifts the responsibilities for housing and supervising low-level offenders from CDCR to the inmate's county of commitment.

Both county probation chiefs and state officials stress that it is still too early to proclaim Realignment a total success, but they admit the early results are encouraging.

"The data suggests that realignment is clearly not endangering public safety," Barry Krisberg, a criminal justice ex-

pert at UC Berkeley agreed. "It looks to me that the program is working as designed."

Both probation officials and Krisberg state that the program's success may be due to probation departments being an integral part of the communities they serve. They are not focused on simply punishing the felon, but more on assisting them. Officials think probation agencies view their job in a different light than the state's parole department does.

Wendy Still, Chief Probation Officer for the County of San Francisco, said her county has a better absconding rate than the state average, with just 2 percent of felons under her supervision going missing.

"Progressive counties are investing in services and

making sure (probation officers) have lower caseloads and are using evidence-based practices rather than jail beds, which is what works," she says. "We see them as clients, and it's our obligation to provide services." According to Still, the state parole department, where she worked for years, has never invested the same amount of resources into helping former inmates succeed once released as San Francisco and some other counties have done.

There are some, however, who don't agree with the report. State Assemblyman Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber) in Tehama County, who is also a very vocal critic of the realignment plan, believes that both property and violent crime are ac-

tually rising in the state. He states that just because a person is reporting as required doesn't mean they aren't still committing more crimes.

"People are checking in, well, fine, that's really good. But, checking in and being rehabilitated are different things," he said. "No one, by some statistics, is going to convince me that realignment is a good thing."

However, according to Krisberg, the crime rate is lower "in almost every community besides Oakland."

Krisberg said, "They [crime rates] are down in Compton and Richmond. Some of the highest crime-rate areas in the state of California continue to track downward, even six months into realignment."

## Legislature Urges Change in Addressing H.S. Disciplinary Acts

California needs to change the way it handles problem students of color to enhance their graduation from high school, a state legislative committee reports.

The committee held state-wide hearings and heard testimony from hundreds of students who said they had disciplinary action, such as

suspensions and expulsions taken against them for misbehaving or defiance, the 50-page report says.

"It was very interesting that the kids who were there (at the hearings) were not the ones who had lost their way. They were the ones who didn't want the system to push them in a direction

where they would end up in the criminal justice system," said Assembly member Sandré Swanson, D-Alameda, chair of the Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color.

The committee recommended revisions in school testing and funding. It also called for making it more difficult

to suspend or expel a student from school. In addition, health care coverage ought to be extended for those who age out of the foster care system, said the committee.

The San Francisco Chronicle quoted Swanson as saying that "it isn't a question of money. It's a question of how we prioritize the money we have."

The committee report also endorsed 19 bills currently working their way through the Legislature. Eight of those bills aim to reduce the "alarmingly high" rates of suspensions and expulsions of students of color.

-N.T. Butler

## Surprise Finding Dates Paper to '30s

By Steve McNamara  
San Quentin News Adviser

In the Background section of the online *San Quentin News* the founding of the paper is traced to December 1940 when it was established by Warden Clinton Duffy. The implication used to be that this was the start of newspapering at San Quentin.

It was not true.

To the great surprise of those of us involved with the current *S.Q. News*, and of San Quentin officials generally, there was a flourishing newspaper at San Quentin before the *News* – more than 80 years ago. It was named *Wall City News* and boasted that it was "The Only Newspaper in the World Published Within the Walls of a Prison."



A copy of the 1930  
Wall City News

September 10, 1930. He subsequently sent photocopies of the paper, Page 1 of which is reproduced here. All four pages are viewable on our website www.sanquentinnews.com. Go to the Back Issues section and scroll down to the year 1930.

On the last page are the times of a recent prison track meet and the prison records in each event. Some of the times are startling. For example, the prison record in the 100-yard dash was said to be an amazing 10.2 seconds. The world record at the time, set three months earlier by Frank Wykoff in Chicago, was 9.5 seconds. The current record, set in 2010 by Asafa Powell on his way to victory in the 100 meters, is 9.07 seconds.

How did Larry Buchan come to have this journalistic gem? He got it from his father, who had been on a trip to San Francisco, in September 1930. Larry's father had picked up five copies of *Wall City News*, left folded on a bench on a San Francisco Bay ferry.

# Yoga Brings Health Benefits to Prisoners

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

The ancient practice of yoga is being practiced in San Quentin and numerous other prisons to help prisoners cope with physical and mental issues.

James Fox, a certified yoga instructor, introduced a yoga program to San Quentin in 2002. Since then, he has taught more than 1,000 classes at the prison and exposed several hundred inmates to the potential benefits of the practice.

He and Jacques Verduin have begun conducting day-long mindfulness trainings in California state prisons that include periods of both yoga and seated meditation. Participants adhere to a vow of silence dur-

tin Gym in July for more than 60 inmates. Another retreat is scheduled for early December.

"I want to offer men the opportunity to leave prison during the 60-90 minutes we are together, at least in their minds," said Fox.

Fox established the Prison Yoga Project in 2009 with the mission of spreading the practice of yoga to prisons worldwide. His yoga manual, "Yoga: A Path for Healing and Recovery," has been sent to thousands of prisoners throughout the U.S.

## MINDFULNESS

Yoga is a self-awareness or mindfulness practice that involves paying attention to one's moment-to-moment ex-



Photo by James Fox

Prisoners and guards receive Yoga instruction from James Fox in the Oslo prison

to sensations in the body. The physical practice of yoga is called Hatha Yoga, which involves uniting the concentration of the mind and conscious breathing with physical postures and exercises.

He said his classes can be quite challenging physically "because there needs to be a purification aspect to the practice." He added his main aim is to provide students with an experience of feeling deeply grounded, centered and balanced.

Scientific research has shown yoga to be beneficial for reducing stress and aiding sleep disorders, anxiety, depression, compulsive behavior, addiction recovery, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"I want to offer yoga as a skill for developing self-discipline, insight and impulse control, so men can effectively address problematic emotions like violence, depression and despair and as an aid for addiction recovery," says Fox.

## PRISONS

In 2010 he began training yoga teachers who are interested in teaching in prisons, rehabilitation and re-entry facilities. He has trained more than 200 teachers and has established chapters in New York, Maryland, Texas and Arizona. He plans to set up chapters in Chicago and Los Angeles in 2013.

In January 2010 Fox addressed an international conference on yoga for social transformation in India, speaking about his experience of

teaching yoga at San Quentin. In 2011 he helped establish a yoga program for prisons in Norway, and he returned there for a subsequent visit in June 2012. As a result of his trip, he has trained more than 40 Norwegian yoga teachers and weekly classes are now offered in five Norwegian prisons with plans to add two more prisons by year's end.

Fox said while introducing Norwegian prisoners to yoga, "Some of the prison staff actually joined right in doing yoga with the prisoners. It is reflective of the social and psychological training they receive."

Yoga classes are now being offered at Rikers Island Jail in New York, New York State Prison, Bayview; Maryland State Prison, Jessup; Arizona State Prison, Ely; and jails in Austin, Texas.



Entrance to Oslo Prison in Norway

ing these seven-hour retreats to facilitate concentration, insight and introspection. A retreat was held in the San Quen-

tin Gym in July for more than 60 inmates. Another retreat is scheduled for early December.

The female offender population is smaller than the male population. However, they are more likely to commit nonviolent, nonserious, and nonsexual crimes, so women offenders are more likely to be impacted by realignment and wind up in a county jail.

Correctional practices for female offenders are different, including requiring female guards for some purposes. They are also more likely than male inmates to have drug problems and are more likely to have experienced physical abuse, according to a report by

Public Policy Institute of California.

The report says, "Jail space for female prisoners is less likely to be specialized for high- and low-security levels, and in some cases it may be more difficult to adapt facilities to a substantial increase in female populations." Another report finds 73 percent of female state prisoners have mental health problems, compared with 55 percent of male prisoners.

## CONTRABAND

The shift of women from prisons to county jails also increases

the introduction of illegal contraband normally associated with state prisons, according to a story in the San Luis Obispo Tribune News.

A May 2010 inspection of the San Luis Obispo jail, before realignment, found "parts of the women's facility were out of compliance with some state regulations, such as how many inmates can be housed in a certain cell," said Don Allen, a state representative in a newspaper interview.

"Construction on a new women's jail is expected to start in January, which will alleviate

some of the overcrowding when it's completed in two years," according to the newspaper story.

The jail's design capacity is 517, but added beds have increased the capacity to 683.

## NEW COMMITMENTS

There have been roughly 635 new commitments to the San Luis Obispo County Jail since the activation of realignment.

The county jail has since released many of those commitments back to the streets after serving their time, but some have much longer sentences to serve.

# Prison Realignment Harder on Women Offenders

By R. Malik Harris  
Contributing Writer

Some women are having a worse time than men adjusting to California's realignment plan, according to several reports.

## COURT ORDER

Realignment is the state's plan to comply with a federal court order to relieve its overcrowded prisons by switching some offenders from serving their sentences in county jails instead of state prison.

The female offender population is smaller than the male population. However, they are more likely to commit nonviolent, nonserious, and nonsexual crimes, so women offenders are more likely to be impacted by realignment and wind up in a county jail.

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# Women's Prison Conversion at Chowchilla Gets Green Light

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

A Superior Court judge has ruled the state may proceed with its plan to convert the Valley State Prison for Women into a male facility.

The conversion was previously put on hold while the court considered a legal challenge by the city of Chowchilla.

In January the city asked the court to compel the state

to conduct an environmental impact study, before moving ahead with its plan, to determine what effect the proposed conversion would have on its community. Female prisoners also objected on the grounds they would lose valuable rehabilitation opportunities in the transfers.

Madera County Supervisor David Rogers told the Merced Sun there is concern the wives and girlfriends of male pris-

oners relocated to the prison would follow them there, causing an increased strain on community resources.

State prison officials claim there is no need for a study though, and argue the conversion only moves inmates around and does not impose any new burden upon the community.

Many women have already been moved in preparation for the planned influx of male

prisoners. According to the Fresno Bee 100 male inmates were moved into the prison on Oct. 11.

Conversion of the prison will force the state to rehouse the remaining women in one of the state's other two women's facilities, which are already operating beyond design capacity.

The state is currently under a federal court order to reduce its prison population

to 137.5 percent of design capacity by June 30, 2013. Federal judges in September denied a state request to modify that order.

The Superior Court ruled the need to comply with the federal court order trumped the city's immediate concerns. Another hearing is scheduled on Dec. 7 to determine whether the state will have to proceed with a review of the conversion's impact.

# Cardboard Canines Scare Off Honkers

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

The flock of Canadian Geese crowding San Quentin's lower yard has near-doubled over the past few weeks. More than likely, the new residents are the same geese that previously lounged on H-Unit's yard, until a duo of fanged guard dogs were deployed to run off the pesky honkers.

The dogs used to chase the geese from the H-Unit yard are imitations, created by inmate John Norris.

"It took me two days to make each dog from old toilet paper boxes," said Norris. "I used discarded potato chip bags and old mirrors to make the tails reflective, which helps to scare the geese off."

The idea for the cardboard canines came from the H-Unit yard officers who were unhappy with the mess that the annoying geese left behind, fouling up the walkways and recreation areas.



Always alert, and dogged in his duties

A correctional officer asked if Norris if could make a replica dog after seeing a model Harley Davidson motorcycle he made in the prison's hobby craft program. Norris told the officer he would give it a try and the first dog was put to the test a week later.

"The dogs are working," said an officer, who asked not to be named. "When the geese are flying in, they see the dogs and turn around."

The geese are native to North America. Loss of habitat and over-hunting in its native range caused a large decline in their numbers in the late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, according to Wikipedia.

However, today their numbers are on the rise and they have be-

come a nuisance in many California communities, including San Quentin.

The administration has received a donation and is looking to purchase 5 plastic decoy dogs for permanent placement on the prison yards, according to Associate Warden Kelly Mitchell.

The geese aggressively beg and aggravate inmates and staff. They also leave a substantial amount of droppings that are known to harness bacteria

Until there is a permanent solution to the goose problem, Norris says he plans to keep making his cardboard and newspaper canines, although he admits they probably will not survive when the rain starts falling.

## VETERANS ANNOUNCEMENT

The Veterans Healing Veterans from The Inside Out San Quentin will conduct a roll call honoring the names of military personnel killed in combat since the beginning of Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The number of killed in action is more than 6,850.

The many men who suffered in silence and ultimately took their lives will also be acknowledged. The event will be held on November 11, Veterans Day, beginning at 0900 a.m. on the lower yard and will conclude at 1500.

All veterans will be allowed to participate in this event; each veteran will call off the appropriate number of names to ensure the event concludes on time. Additionally, outside volunteers and correctional staff will participate in the roll call, including Warden Kevin Chappell.

For media coverage contact Lt. Sam Robinson, Public Information Officer (PIO).

# San Quentin Celebrates Addiction Recovery

Continued from Page 1

and counselors. Substance abuse is an area in which there are jobs and the work in that field is needed. We know it is effective in reducing recidivism, if they walk the walk. The work of the men is needed."

Several recovering addicts from the community gave testimony, including a retired Berkeley police captain and founder of Options Recovery Services Davida Coady.

Coady said, "The mayor is always looking for ways to improve lives."

The ARC program is a 16-week comprehensive treatment program. Participants learn about addiction, relapse prevention and life skills through a combination of education, group counseling, and reflection and process groups. According to inmate Robin Tunzo, ARC has been providing comprehensive counseling



The Addiction Recovery Counseling staff with AW Curzon, Warden Chappell, Community Partnerships Manager Steve Emrick and Senator Hancock

to San Quentin's men in blue for the past six years. The program has been replicated at Solano State Prison.

The program could not operate without the support of Options Recovery Services and Support 4 Recovery, said Administrative Director Kiki Kessler.

In 2009, Support 4 Recovery took 11 men with life sentences and began training them to become certified alcohol and drug counselors. Many of those that took the training have since been released and continue their work in the community.

Later, Options provided training, continuing education

# Voting Rights

Continued from Page 1

Californians can vote only after they get off parole; however, Pennsylvanians can register to vote when they are released from prison.

Mississippi has 22 ways to disenfranchise potential voters. Stealing timber is one of them, while manslaughter is not. Disenfranchised Mississippians who want their voting rights back must get the approval of two-thirds in both houses of the state Legislature, and then go through a gubernatorial process that includes the power to veto.

If you distribute pornography in Alabama, you will be disenfranchised, according to an online article by News21.

In Kentucky, ex-cons must get the approval of the governor to restore their voting rights.

"When people are punished for crimes that they've committed, that should not involve forfeiting their basic rights of citizenship, which is what felony disenfranchisement does," said Marc Mauer, executive director of The Sentencing Project.

## Shuttle Causes Excitement



File Photo

Continued from Page 1

"All of a sudden we heard the sound of an oncoming aircraft," said inmate Pedro Espinal. "Right above us was the space shuttle Endeavour riding piggyback on top of a 747. It was truly a sight to see and remember."

Inmates standing near the prison's new medical building had the best view of Endeavour because the five-story building blocked the direct sunlight, which decreased the aircraft's glare.

"The guys who were lucky enough to be on the yard this morning will forever remem-

ber seeing this American icon," said one inmate. "It looked like the whole yard was saluting the shuttle."

Inmates began to cheer, yell, and whistle, while waving the shuttle good-bye as it disappeared toward the San Francisco skies. After the shuttle passed the prison, some inmates went back to their routine while others stood staring at the sky, in hopes that the aircraft would circle back over the prison.

"My daughter Anjelica and I are able to share a historical-setting moment, even though she's 1,000 miles away, in El Paso," said an inmate who wished to remain anonymous.

to CAADAC for training and educating inmates to become substance-abuse counselors through its Offender Mentorship Certification Program.

"OMCP is a phenomenal program that gives inmates and mentors the chance to give back to society," said OMCP Director Kristina Padilla.

Certified alcohol and drug counselors are now in nine California prisons. Padilla said the public should know the work they're doing with inmates is a "grass-root effort that would really benefit from public support, financially and other ways throughout CDCR."

Kessler recently started a non-profit organization called "Seeds." She said she intends to use the organization to raise funds to expand recovery services.

Three lifers in the ARC program will soon parole, said Kessler. "To continue the program, we need to train new individuals," she explained.

# After 35 Years, Clifton Bode Gains His Freedom

HE ENTERED THE CALIFORNIA PRISON SYSTEM AT AGE 16 AND LEFT AT THE AGE OF 51

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Staff Writer

Thirty-five years ago, 16-year-old Clifton Bode had it all. Raised on one of the largest cattle ranches in California, he had plans to see the world.



Clifton Bode upon his arrival to prison

After an argument with his father, Bode ran away from home, taking his father's gun with him. He realized he would not make it to the Sacramento Airport on foot, so he tried to steal a car. But in the process, he shot the owner, was arrested, tried as

an adult, and convicted of first-degree murder.

He arrived at the Duol Vocational Institution in Tracy, Calif., in 1978, which at the time was reported as "the most violent prison in the United States" by the Sacramento Bee.

"That's the day I walked into hell," said Bode. "It was a struggle coming to DVI. Mostly the people there were young."

Before his 17th birthday, Bode was stabbed nine times, landing him in the hole.

"It was during that time I was in the hole I began reflecting on my life," said Bode. "That's when my life began to change."

After recovering from the stabbings, he was sent back to DVI's mainline, where he spent seven years.

Bode was found suitable for parole on June 4, 1992, but the

decision was overturned by Gov. Pete Wilson.

"It was because of the 'tough on crime initiative,'" Bode said. "It was political."

## *'That's the day I walked into hell'*

In January 1993 he was transferred to San Quentin, where he served the rest of his term. "I've watched San Quentin grow, and I've taken all the programs I've been offered."

Bode was part of the Toastmasters speaking club and self-help programs like Alternative to Violence (AVP), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG), and the spiritual group in the Catholic Church.

"In the early '90s I lost my faith in God," Bode said. Then his wife reintroduced him to the Catholic faith. "I did Kairos in 1994 and that brought me back." Bode says his faith has been strong ever since.

Bode earned his GED and high school diploma during his incarceration, and was nine units away from receiving his AA degree through San Quentin's Prison University Project.

"The educational programs and self-help programs like VOEG helped me to gain insight and empathy towards the victims," Bode said, "and the tragedy I created by my horrific crime."

In May he was again found suitable and on Sept. 17 his counselor informed him the governor's office would take no further action on his case.

Beyond the walls of San Quentin, his wife and friends are waiting for him but Bode will go to a transitional facility in Alameda County.

"I'm 51, and all I know is prison life," Bode said. When



Clifton Bode upon his parole from prison

asked what he would say today to the 16-year-old boy back then, he said: "Turn around and look at the greatness of life that he had. Being raised up on some of the biggest cattle ranches in California. He had it made, but he threw it all away."

## Zero Tolerance Policies: Pipeline From School to Prison

By Kris Himmelberger  
Journalism Guild Writer

Zero tolerance policies form a pipeline from schools to prison that disproportionately impacts African-Americans, according to a new analysis by the University of South Florida. The disparity remains even after controlling for socioeconomic status.

Zero tolerance policies grew out of the Gun-Free School Act. The policy was originally intended to address issues of school violence, but, as the report points out, administrators began applying it to nonviolent infractions, like class disruptions.

This is of concern because it treats nonviolent behavior the

same as more serious offenses like gun possession, the report concludes. It adds that the policy strips schools of discretion in handling matters, making suspension or expulsion the norm.

There were roughly 3.3 million suspensions and 106,000 expulsions in the 2004 school year, according to the study. Many of these matters could have been dealt with via counseling, it notes.

For instance, a five-year-old African-American girl in St. Petersburg was arrested and forcibly removed from elementary school for having a temper tantrum in class.

African-American students bore the blunt of expulsions. From 2002 to 2007, expulsions

increased 33 percent, compared with a two percent decrease for Caucasian students.

The policy severely affects African-Americans for two reasons. First, most teachers are white females, clouded with a stereotypical view that African-Americans are on a path that will inevitably result in incarceration. Second, it creates hyper-vigilant teachers, who are forced to alter their position from an educator to one of quasi-probation officer.

The analysis says the demographics of the teachers are not to blame, but that the policy misdirects their attention. It also says greater efforts need to be made to diversify the teaching pool and implement cultural awareness programs.

The report points out a correlation exists between school suspension, expulsion, dropping out of school and entry into juvenile/correctional system. In fact, some states, like Washington, use fourth grade reading scores and graduation rates to assess the number of prison cells needed.

The report goes on to say African-American males that drop out of high school have a 60 percent risk of imprisonment. It does not contrast other ethnicity groups, but notes referrals to the juvenile justice system of African-Americans was 2.5 time higher than Caucasians.

Closing the pipeline remains a common goal. To do this, all parties must work to increase

graduation rates and reduce incarceration.

Florida amended its policy to clarify that "zero-tolerance policies are not intended to be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct and misdemeanors, including, but not limited to, minor fights or disturbances."

The report says Florida's policy must ensure that zero-tolerance policies are applied equally to all students, regardless of economic status, race, or disability.

The rate of school-based arrests in Florida for the 2010 to 2011 school year is down by 11 percent, says the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. Furthermore, the number of youths being placed in juvenile detention centers is down by 10 percent.

## Advocate Promotes National Youth Justice Awareness

AFTER CALIFORNIA ABOLISHES JUVENILE LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE SENTENCES

By Gary Scott  
Staff Writer

One member of Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together) hopes to bring National Youth Justice Awareness Month to California next October to foster discussion and find solutions to issues concerning youth.

YJAM organizers host a variety of events, including 5K runs/walks, film screenings, poetry slams, picnics and concerts. The events, hosted in 14 states and the District of Columbia, raise awareness about juveniles who were prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system.

So far, no YJAM events have been celebrated in California. Michael Nelson hopes to change that.

"When we say, 'Let's give juveniles a fair chance,' we are really saying, 'Let's give all youth a fair chance,'" said Nelson, who committed his crime at the



Photo by Michelle Rochelle

Michael Nelson talks about crime and youth awareness

age of 15 and was sentenced to 25 years to life.

Nelson is chairman of Kid C.A.T., a group that brings awareness to issues affecting

Californian youth. He said he hopes to bring YJAM to California in 2013 in the form of a concert to raise awareness to issues such as child homeless-

ness, bullying, teen suicide and gang violence.

"The objective of the concert is to promote Youth Justice Awareness Month of October in our state," Nelson said. "The message: we can do better."

California has recently made progress in youth justice issues. In September, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a measure that would allow judges to reconsider the sentences of some youth sentenced to Life Without the Possibility of Parole.

Senate Bill 9 allows such juveniles, who have already served at least 15 years, to file for a sentence reduction from LWOP to 25 years to life. To qualify, they must show remorse and good behavior in prison.

"SB9 and [Youth Justice Awareness Month] are both connected to youth justice," Nelson said. "They both reflect the need to pay closer attention to the issues that concern young people as a whole."

## Journal Seeks Prisoner Writings

The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons is a prisoner written, academically oriented and peer reviewed, non-profit journal, based on the tradition of the penal press.

The journal is currently seeking submissions.

Submission guidelines may be obtained by writing to either:

Journal of Prisoners on Prisons  
c/o Justine Piché, PhD  
Department of Criminology  
University of Ottawa  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
KIN 6N5

or  
San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
Re: Prisoners on Prisons

**Correction:**  
Lesley Currier's name was misspelled in the September Issue

# Alcatraz Becomes a Site for Healing Process

VICTIM SURVIVORS UNITE WITH AUTHOR AND PRISONER GROUP TO PROMOTE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

By Lizzie Buchen  
San Quentin News Adviser

On a warm October day on Alcatraz Island, families and vacationers touring the infamous prison came upon an unexpected scene in the cellhouse dining hall: A tearful woman holding a microphone, detailing the brutal murder of her 17-year-old son.

"I'm still grieving, I'm still hurting, I'm still mourning," said Paulette Brown, who spoke as a supporter of the Insight Prison Project. Brown grasped a large photograph of her son and held it before the crowd. "But I decided to turn my sorrow into action."

IPP staff and supporters made the trip to the Rock as part of the

weekly speaker series accompanying a special exhibition of author Nancy Mullane's book, *Life After Murder: Five Men in Search of Redemption*.

IPP, grounded in the principles of restorative justice, seeks to transform incarcerated people by helping them develop insight, accountability, and compassion through programs like the Victim Offender Education Group.

"I thought criminals were scum," Brown told the crowd. But then she attended a restorative justice "healing circle" at San Quentin, where she met Jesse Reed, one of the five men profiled in Mullane's book. "After I went to San Quentin, I started realizing, they're human beings. They've been hurt, too. Their

family members have died, too. That's when I found out, hurt people hurt people. Their hurt is why they're here."

## ***I'm still grieving***

Ellen Barry, the executive director of IPP, and Jaimee Carroll, IPP's training, educational and curricula director, kicked off the event by discussing the VOEG program and its hopes for expansion throughout the California criminal justice system.

Brown was followed by another survivor of a murdered son, Radha Stern. Stern has been going to San Quentin to participate

in restorative justice groups for eight years.

"You hear in the media that victims want the death penalty, that victims want prisoners to suffer," said Stern. "In reality, many are seeking compassionate solutions."

Before and after the IPP presentation, visitors viewed the rest of the exhibit, which featured larger-than-life-size photos of the five men profiled by Mullane: Jesse Reed, Donald Cronk, Ed Ramirez, Phillip Seiler and Rich Rael. The exhibit also lists each man's conviction, sentence, incarceration time, and parole date.

One of the more provocative parts of the exhibit was a "Thought Wall." Visitors

were encouraged to write their thoughts about redemption on a 3 x 5 Post-It and stick the note to the wall. While some wished the men luck, most were unforgiving; many pointed out something along the lines of, "Their victims never got a second chance."

Several said simply, "An eye for an eye". But directly below one such Post-It, another visitor had stuck a different note in response: "Leaves the whole world blind."

The *Life After Murder* speaker series runs every Saturday at 1 pm until Nov 17, and features Mullane, each of the five men, CDCR Spokesperson Bill Sessa, and Jody Lewen, Executive Director of San Quentin's Prison University Project.

## Prop. 36 Offers Hope for Non-Violent Third Strikers

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

On Nov 6, California voters will decide if its 18-year old Three Strikes law would be modified to give some non-violent third strikers the chance to go before a judge and ask to be resentenced.

If the judge finds that the applicant is no longer a danger to public safety, the applicant's sentence could be modified, and because of time already served be freed.

If Proposition 36 passes, it would apply to an estimated 3,000 of the 8,873 prisoners serving 25-years-to-life terms as of June 30.

"Prop 36 is a common sense reform. Life sentences for non-violent crimes are unfair, unintended by voters, and don't make any of us any safer," said Mike Romano, Director of the Stanford Law School's Three Strikes Legal Clinic. "That's why Prop 36 is supported by everyone from conservative prosecutors to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund."

The ballot measure received large contributions from billionaire financier George Soros, who has contributed millions over the years to change drug laws and other statutes he believes are too harsh.

"Prop. 36 is a positive step towards a rational approach to the

public safety," said Geri Silva, President of Families to Amend California's Three Strikes. "Detractors point out that there is a direct correlation between the Three Strikes Law and the drop in crime," she added. "Not only is this not borne out by a correct reading of the facts, after the passage of Prop. 36, we will actually see a greater decrease in crime as money now used to lock up and lock down petty offenders will be used to educate and provide opportunity to people in our communities."

Opponents of the measure include the California Police Chiefs Association; its president, Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel, signed the ballot rebut-

tal argument against Proposition 36, arguing that thousands of criminals would be released from prison.

Top victims rights organizations, such as Crime Victims United of California, are also opposed to the measure.

According to the CA Secretary of State, the Three Strikes Reform campaign has received \$2.3 million since January, including more than \$500,000 since July 1. It has spent \$1.8 million. The Save Three Strikes campaign, which is opposed to Proposition 36, has received around \$100,000 total, and has spent \$16,000.

Mike Reynolds, the Fresno photographer whose daughter

was murdered by a repeat offender, is the author of the 1994 three-strike law. "One hundred percent of them would have at least two prior serious or violent convictions", Reynolds said.

"Make no mistake we're talking about the bad boys. These are guys who are responsible for the worst of our crimes, the most active by definition. And you want to put them back on the street and not expect them to come back with new convictions?"

According to a recent poll by the LA Times and the University of Southern California, two-thirds of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 36; one-fifth would vote no.

## One Man's Journey to Find Salvation

BOOK DESCRIBES FREEDOM FROM LIFE OF CRIME

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Gangs, drugs, and ignorance blocked opportunities for Luis J. Rodríguez for many years, until he was able to rid them from his life. This is what the author deals with in his autobiography: *It Calls You Back: An Odyssey through Love, Addiction, Revolutions, and Healing*.

Award-winning author Rodríguez, who recently visited San Quentin, grew up in Los Angeles with no direction in life, exposed to gangs and substance abuse. This made him a troubled man and oblivious to his cultural history. "I was hurting yet asleep to my pain," he explains.

He acknowledges that heroin, alcohol and pills had a grip on him. "I used to like combining those damn things," he writes, "I was an equal-opportunity drug user until heroin forced me to become more discriminating."

Rodríguez's loyalty to his barrio gang, Las Lomas in the San Gabriel Valley, misguided him throughout his teen-

age years. When the gang did robberies or other crimes, he would go along proving he was "down with the fellas." While attending a funeral of a fellow gang member, he remembers his erroneous thought process as he tells a girlfriend, "I can hardly wait to have a funeral just like this," he said with a far off look, "to have the mothers crying, the homies and girls missing me, with all this love. That would be the best day of my life."

Rodríguez always felt that his gangbanging lifestyle was in conflict with his wish for a better community.

Rodríguez describes that being part of a minority group in the U.S., he felt unappreciated and constantly sought ways to improve his life. He argues that the mainstream media's stereotypical depictions of minorities added to the problem of misrepresentation of his community.

After digesting volumes of books, Rodríguez found that his outlook on life had changed. He began to attend meetings with members in the

neighborhood to figure out how to improve the community. He describes how he met people whom he calls "salt-of-the-earth folk. They looked like America—white, black, brown, red, and yellow. These leaders were mostly women, people of color, and working class."

Rodríguez succeeded in getting clean and sober, reconciled with his children, and settled into a stable marriage. Since then, he has been able to write poetry and a successful novel, *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* The success of *Always Running* generated enough income for him to start a publishing company.

In August, when Rodríguez visited San Quentin, he told the creative writing class that inmates have an important role in telling the story of the poor, the disadvantaged and those behind bars. He said prisoners' stories must be able to resonate with all readers and invoke empathy. Rodríguez says he is interested in publishing writers if inmates send him copies of their work at Tia Chucha Press: [www.tiachucha.com](http://www.tiachucha.com).



## S.Q. Machine Shop Crafts Bronze Plaque for Alcatraz

By Dwight Krizman  
Contributing Writer

San Quentin inmates are lending a hand to the Alcatraz Island Museum Project. They are making bronze castings of the last remaining plaque that used to mark the cell door locking mechanism.

After securing a \$400,000 donation, the Alcatraz project committee turned to San Quentin to cast 24 bronze plaques depicting the manufacturer's name.

Over the years, the original plaques have been removed, possibly taken as souvenirs or given away as staff retirement gifts.

Amanda Williford, Golden Gate Recreation Area curator for the Museum Project, was

reluctant to part with the last remaining plaque. However, after meeting with Richard Saenz, San Quentin Machine Shop instructor, and the students doing the work, she put the plaque in the machine shop staff's care.

"The foundry will melt down and cast the new plaques from molten bronze poured into sand molds made from resin castings created from the remaining plaque," Saenz said. "This method of metalworking originated thousands of years ago and the technique of getting an exact replica of the original can be tricky. It is great to see this project happening along side of the continuing work we are doing for NASA."

# High Court Limits Size of Habeas Petitions

By San Quentin News Staff

The California Supreme Court has set page limits to habeas corpus petitions that bring up claims that have previously been before the court.

The court said there would continue to be no page limit for initial habeas corpus petitions. However, successive petitions must be limited to 50 pages.

The court also said the petition must identify which claims have been raised pre-

viously and rejected, which claims could have been raised before, which claims are "truly new," and which claims have been deemed exhausted by a federal court. The ruling said that information should be included in a table of contents, which may run an additional 10 pages.

The court said some successive habeas corpus petitions are loaded with so many procedural problems that they are abusive to the court process.

These problems, Justice Kathryn Mickle Werdegar wrote, "have created a significant threat to our capacity to timely and fairly adjudicate such matters."

Werdegar added, "Some Death Row inmates with meritorious legal claims may languish in prison for years waiting for this court's review while we evaluate [other prisoners'] petitions raising dozens or even hundreds of frivolous and untimely claims."

The court established in 1994 that successive habeas corpus petitions must bring forward truly new claims, which could not have been brought before. However, petitioners still filed subsequent petitions raising barred claims. Werdegar said those cases took up a lot of the court's time, and rarely were those petitions able to justify their untimely or procedurally barred hurdles.

"Vis-à-vis other states, we authorize more money to pay

post-conviction counsel, authorize more money for post-conviction investigation, allow counsel to file habeas corpus petitions containing more pages, and permit more time following conviction to file a petition for what is, after all, a request for collateral relief," said Werdegar.

On another matter, Werdegar said the court is still having problems finding enough qualified lawyers to take on death penalty appeals.

## Prisons and Public Safety

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

As America's distinction of having the highest incarceration rate of all industrialized nations begins to take a toll on state and local governments, Republican and Democratic platforms outline plans to keep the public safe from crime while reducing the prison population.

### GOP PLATFORM

The Grand Old Party's new platform breaks from the comprehensive "tough on crime" policies the party is known for. They support state and local governments that provide initiatives that will reduce drug abuse and redirect first-time offenders towards rehabilitation. The platform further emphasizes that "Prisons should do more than punish; they should attempt to rehabilitate and institute proven prisoner reentry systems to reduce recidivism and future victimization."

The platform also endorses faith-based institutions that would divert the youth and

first-time, non-violent offenders from committing more crimes.

### MANDATORY SENTENCES

But much of the platform continues to favor the "lock 'em up" strategy. The party advocates for mandatory prison time for assaults against law enforcement officers is a step in the right direction. The 2012 Republican Platform also says, "Mandatory prison sentencing for gang crimes, violent or sexual offenses against children, repeat drug dealers, rape and robbery are appropriate sentences."

"Liberals do not understand this simple axiom: criminals behind bars cannot harm the general public," the platform reads. The platform opposes parole for dangerous or repeat felons and supports a national registry for convicted child murderers.

### DNC PLATFORM

The 2012 Democratic National Platform has a different approach to public safety. Its platform takes credit for having

created the Federal Interagency Reentry Council in 2011 and the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduces racial disparities for sentences that involve drug crimes. "DNA testing should be used in all appropriate circumstances. Defendants should have effective assistance of counsel, and the administration of justice should be fair and impartial," reads the Democratic document.

The party supports the Community Oriented Policing Services program, which is a community-based law enforcement program, as well as "local prison-to-work programs and other initiatives to reduce recidivism."

The Democratic Party advocates for continuing to expand the use of drug courts.

### VICTIM RIGHTS

Democrats emphasize the rights of victims should be respected and their voices heard. "We support reauthorizing the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act," the document says.

## How America Ranks Among Industrialized Nations

- 1st in gross domestic product
- 1st in number of billionaires
- 1st in number of persons incarcerated
- 1st in per-capita health expenditures
- 1st in defense expenditures
- 1st in military weapons exports
- 6th in per-capita education expenditures
- 13th in teen suicide rates
- 17th in reading scores
- 22nd in low birth weight rates
- 23rd in science scores
- 29th in infant mortality rates
- 31st in math scores
- 31st in the gap between the rich and the poor
- Worst in relative child poverty
- Worst in adolescent birth rates (ages 15 to 19)
- Worst in lifetime use of cocaine, marijuana, and tobacco
- Worst in divorce rates
- Worst in protecting children against gun violence
- The United States and Somalia (which has no legally constituted government) are the only two United Nations members that have failed to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- 67 nations have lower infant mortality rates, including Thailand and Costa Rica.
- 114 nations have a lower incidence of low birth weight, including the Dominican Republic, Nigeria, and Kazakhstan.

Source — *State of America's Children — Handbook 2012*

## Group Pushes to Reduce Cost of Prisoner Collect Calls

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Advocates for prison reform have renewed attempts to stop telephone companies from over-charging inmates and their families. Some collect telephone calls made from prison cost as much as \$17 to talk for 15 minutes, reported The Lookout news blog.

"It makes no sense to cut off or make impossible their com-

munication with their families," said David Keene, former head of the American Conservative Union, adding, it is "a tax on the poorest people in our society."

### CALL TO ACTION

A bipartisan group of religious, civil rights, and human rights leaders called for action in a letter to the Federal Communications Commission in May 2012.

"The ability to call home at a reasonable price is an important factor in whether inmates rehabilitate and reintegrate into society when they return," said prisoner advocates. "That's the dilemma facing many inmates who must rely on the prison phone service and pay sky-high rates."

According to The Lookout, some phone companies pay commissions to states when they are

awarded exclusive contracts to provide inmates phone service in prison. The cost of these commissions paid to states is later passed on to inmates and their families.

### REVENUE

The money is a source of revenue for many of the country's crowded prisons that are in need of cash, according to The Lookout. In 2011, there was \$152 mil-

lion in revenue generated for state prisons.

The Government Accountability Office reported that the federal prison system, which charges less for calls, uses its commissions for recreation and job-related inmate activities.

A spokesman for the FCC informed Yahoo News that it is working on the issue of high-priced phone rates in prison.

## Ohio Program Helps Mentally Ill Ex-Offenders on Parole

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Ex-offenders with severe mental illness and developmental disabilities are getting help from a project aimed at keeping them healthy and stable, according to Ohio prison officials.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

said helping disadvantaged, newly released offenders find adequate housing would reduce the state's recidivism rate, which would bring down prison costs.

In 2004, the ODRC started the Returning Home Ohio project to target the right people for supportive housing, find them a stable home and coordinate the services

they need, the Huffington Post reports.

The department of corrections evaluated the program this year, and found that it successfully identifies and assists disadvantaged ex-offenders who need the extra help to stay out of prison.

A major factor contributing to the program's success is the commitment from state

leadership. Despite the state having had three governors and four directors of the ODRC since the program's inception, the program has remained stable and received consistent support from the highest levels of the criminal justice system, including an Ohio Supreme Court Justice.

Another strength of the Returning Home Ohio proj-

ect, according to the report, is that it involves coordination across state agencies, including the criminal justice, housing and behavioral health agencies.

In addition to the internal evaluation, the program is being thoroughly evaluated by third-party researchers at the Urban Institute, which studies social issues in America.

## SPORTS

# Two Warriors On Basketball

Two key members of the Golden State Warriors visited San Quentin recently and offered encouragement to the prisoners.

The visitors were head Coach Mark Jackson and Draymond Green, one of the Warriors' second-round draft picks.

Green played college ball at Michigan State University and was named the 2012 Big 10 Player of the Year.



DRAYMOND GREEN

**How does it feel to actually obtain your dream to become a NBA player?**

It's amazing, after growing up with a dream that seems so far fetched and to finally accomplish that dream is a blessing.

**What is your approach to your rookie season?**

My approach is to give it my all and try to fulfill my obligations to what the coaches want and hopefully achieve a great four-year career.

**What advice do you have for the basketball players here who are trying to become better players?**

If what you want is to play basketball or whatever sport you believe in, you have to give it 110 percent when you step out there on the court or field or wherever, you need to give it your all.

**How did you overcome your environment and the hardships in your life?**

I overcame my hardships through the help of my mother and God. Every time I wanted to go right, she was always there to make me go left. She never gave up on me even when I felt like doing something wrong. Through the blessing of God and my mother, I became the man that I am today.

**What was your thinking when someone asked you if you wanted to come into prison?**

When I heard that the guys were going into San Quentin to play basketball, I didn't want to be asked. I immediately asked how can I go. I told them to do what they could to get me on the list to go to San Quentin as well.

— Gary Scott

MARK JACKSON

**What motivated you through high school and college, to keep pushing and sacrificing yourself in playing basketball?**

I was a young kid with a dream growing up in New York. I had a dream to be a pro. I watched guys make mistakes. I wanted to graduate from high school and college, and I wanted to be a father, a husband, etc.

**Was there any fear in taking on the challenge of being a head coach?**

I'm a guy with faith in God. I have a voice and there is no pressure or fear.

**What advice do you have for the inmate head coaches here at San Quentin?**

The best thing is to have guys doing whatever it takes and be willing to accept their role and buy into the system.

**Any words of encouragement for the incarcerated men here?**

We all make mistakes. Trust God and make changes. God is a God of second chances. Get out and be better.



Outsiders pose with Lt Sam Robinson

# Top Players Show Skills At S.Q. Football Tryouts

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

The All-Madden Flag Football tryouts produced top skilled players at every position.

Players hustled, sweated and endured through multiple drills. On display were the slalom, shuffle and sprint drill, the lateral cone drill, back peddle and the hop drop and roll drill.

"We have coaches at every position. The coaches' jobs were to evaluate the level of the skill of the players. Twenty-six players eventually were selected," said head coach Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla.

Jhavonte Carr made the team as a cornerback and will receive some playing time at running back and wide receiver. Carr played football at Oak Grove High School and for a year at San Jose City College.

During the intramural league flag football season, Carr proved to be a threat at wide receiver,

catching several deep passes for touchdowns.

"Tryouts were like a combine. Everybody showed their talent," Carr said. "It was tough on everybody, and it wasn't easy. I felt confident and my main focus going into the tryouts is to better the team and myself."

Thompson-Bonilla was impressed by the players' skills. In regards to Carr he said, "I saw a guy who had Division I ability and his football IQ is above average. He showed me that he is a good team player and that he has a really good attitude."

"The level of skill that these guys brought to the field made our job seriously undoable, as far as in the decision-making process," he said. "I truly commend everybody out there. Their effort was 100 percent."

About 60 athletes attended the tryout and filled the Lower Yard football field. Thompson-Bonilla expressed how the athletes who did not make the final

roster would remain involved with the team.

"They're now the practice squad. It allows us to have an offense and defense squad to practice against. If a player gets hurt, we will bring a player off the practice squad to the active roster," Thompson-Bonilla said

Thompson-Bonilla played football at Newark Memorial High School and was a first team All-American at quarterback and defensive back. He played college football at Ohio State University and played professionally in the Canadian Football League.

He learned his coaching techniques through playing football at multiple levels. "I learned coaching from Pop Warner all the way through college," said Thompson-Bonilla. "Coach Earl Bruce, former Ohio State football coach, is where I learned almost all of my coaching style."

## Donors Resurface Basketball Court

The popular San Quentin basketball court is sporting a new surface and markings, thanks to donated labor and materials.

The surface is the same used earlier this year on the tennis court and is comprised of acrylic with a silica sand mixed in to produce a texture that is both durable and long lasting. The green surface was striped and the keys painted blue to produce a well-defined perimeter for the San Quentin basketball teams.

The Ministry Foundation donated some \$7,000 for the materials and the Saviano Co. Inc. donated time and labor to resurface the court.

Eric Hodges, part owner of Saviano, supervised a crew of three who resurfaced the basketball court on Sept. 11.

Hodges said the company surfaces around 300 to 400 courts each year.



Outsiders and SQ Warriors on the new basketball court

"We've done a lot of courts all over the country," said Hodges, noting they work on everything from tennis, to shuffleboard and volleyball courts. "We even worked on the tennis courts at the Beijing Olympics."

With 35 employees, the Saviano Company does not discriminate against ex-cons. "You can't judge people for what they

once did," said Hodges, noting they have one employee who has been with the company for 10 years after serving time in a federal penitentiary. "He's a good worker and a very smart guy," he said.

The company has recently gained a license to work in Hawaii.

— Gary Scott

## Outsiders Defeat San Quentin Warriors

**Continued from Page 1**

that point, rebounding and scoring eight points, six of them on three-pointers.

Jackson followed with a no-look assist to Benjamin B. to give the Outsiders a 106-92 lead. In his NBA career, Jackson racked up 10,334 assists.

The Warriors tried to respond as Marcus Horton and Auxila-Pierrelouis knocked down back-to-back three-pointers. The game ended on a three-pointer by Antoine Brown, but it was too late for the Warriors.

"I knew it was big names going into the game, and my ap-

proach was to get comfortable, go with the flow of the game and be in attack mode," Warriors guard Jhavonte Carr said of his approach to the game. Carr kept his team close in the third with eight points.

Jackson finished with eight assists and nine points. He was theatrical on a few plays as he acted as if he was fouled hard after a whistle by the officials. After a blocked shot, he flexed his muscles, and after playing with the basketball on a fast break like a Harlem Globetrotter, he dished out an assist to John Fahey.

After the game, Jackson and Myers took pictures and signed autographs for the spectators who watched and cheered during the game.

"It's been a great experience," said Myers. "I believe we get more out of it coming here than the men here. I had a good time. We competed and had fun." He finished with a game high 39 points.

Carr appreciated the members of the Golden State Warriors staff for taking the time to visit the San Quentin Warriors.

"It was like my Golden State Warriors tryout," Carr said. "I thank them for coming, and it was a blessing being on the court with them."

# Soccer Returns To S.Q.

By Kris Himmelberger  
Journalism Guild Writer

Soccer is making a comeback in San Quentin.

On Labor Day, just after the baseball game ended, 16 soccer players hit the field for a practice game. Some of the players had soccer cleats, but most wore state-issued Converse or running shoes.

"I've been at Quentin for four years and I can't remember the last time we had a soccer league," said Jose Diaz.

San Quentin had an active soccer league until it ended in the mid-00s. Since then, players have only played pick-up.

Recently, the men in blue organized four soccer teams, and now efforts are under way



Vinh Nguyen showing off his soccer skills

Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

to recruit an outside volunteer coach and begin playing teams from the outside.

As Jose Vieyra, who's been playing for 25 years, pointed out: "Two things are needed the most for soccer: equipment and a coach."

Recent transfers to San Quentin from other prisons have included a number of soccer players and fans, pumping new life into the game.

"We had 11 soccer teams at Soledad. When I got here,

I was surprised to see there were no soccer teams," said Jesus Lopez, who started playing soccer at age 10.

Joe Rivera, who came from Solano six months ago, said, "I've been playing most of my life. Soccer is my life. In Solano, we had a soccer team and played every week. I think people can gain discipline through soccer and it helps them deal with frustration, not to mention it's a healthy activity."

On this particular evening, they watched the movie 'Taking Chance' with Kevin Bacon about a Marine Officer who volunteers to escort the body of a fallen soldier, PFC Chance, back from the war zone to his family stateside. When VVGSQ member Marvin Harris was asked what he thought of the experience, he replied "It was beautiful and heart-felt...I didn't feel like I was in prison,

## Governor Vetoes Media Access Bill

By San Quentin News Staff

Gov. Jerry Brown has vetoed a bill that would have expanded media access to specific prisoners.

"Giving criminals celebrity status through repeated appearances on television will glorify their crimes and hurt victims and their families," Brown wrote in his veto message of AB 1270, sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco.

Current prison policy allows reporters to conduct random interviews with inmates,

but they cannot specify which inmate to interview.

"The cost of implementing and monitoring this expansive new level of access should not be imposed at a time when prison budgets are being cut," Brown's veto message said.

The bill would have prevented authorities from retaliating against inmates who granted interviews. A request could be denied if authorities concluded the interview would endanger prison security or the physical safety of someone inside or outside of custody.

The current controversies produced by prison overcrowding and last year's prisoner hunger strike attract the attention of the media, a Los Angeles Times editorial noted. "Despite that, California's prisons are notoriously off-limits to the kind of scrutiny that is routine for most public agencies. Questions about living conditions behind bars, for instance, are difficult to pose and report."

"I agree that too little media access may be harmful, but too much can be as well," Brown's veto message concluded.

## Camaraderie Night A Big Hit for Vets

By Chris Schuhmacher  
Contributing Writer

but back in the barracks with the fellas."

This was the VVGSQ's first camaraderie night in over a year and special thanks goes out to Michelle Rochelle for helping to make this event possible. For many of the members this was their first Camaraderie Night since joining.

"As a first time participant, my sense of connection and unity was met through the members who attended," said VVGSQ member and Fundraiser Squad Leader Jesse Hernandez. "I look forward to future events which will bring our group closer together."

Camaraderie Squad Leaders John Warren and Harry Barton are working hard to make this night a monthly event once again and also have plans for a camaraderie-building VVGSQ softball game in the month of October.

The VVGSQ is working towards expanding their VHS/DVD library. If you or someone you know, would like to donate new or used military-related movies to the group, please contact our Chief Sponsor Lt. Evans or Lt. Luna at San Quentin State Prison.

—Paul Stauffer contributed to this article.

### 12 Step Programs At San Quentin

**A.A.** Monday and Wednesday 6:20 p.m. in Education  
**A.A.** Friday at 1:30 p.m. In the ARC Module  
**A.A.** Saturday at 6:20 p.m. In the ARC Module  
**N.A.** Tuesday and Friday ARC Module 6:20 p.m.

#### In H-Unit

**A.A.** Tuesday and Thursday in Education  
 All are welcome, simply show up!

## Dutch Social Psychologist Impressed by Prisoners

### Opinion

By Joost van Imhoff  
Contributing Writer

My time in San Quentin has evoked the following question in me: "How can it be that I, safely raised in Holland, have never felt so understood, accepted and heard as I have in a group of violent offenders?"

Although the stories of drugs, violence and even murder were far from what I've experienced and new to me, it was not what had surprised or gripped me.

I was highly surprised and impressed by the integrity, emotional intelligence and authority of a group of men that society labeled as "monsters." Prison has not only taught me a lot as a psychologist, but I've mainly had an inspiring experience as a human being.

For five months, I have been an intern for Jacques Verduin in San Quentin State Prison in California. For my internship,



Joost van Imhoff with men of San Quentin

Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

I have attended and supported five different classes: Violence, Prevention, The Work, VOEG, Yoga and Meditation.

Most of the students in these classes are lifers.

Eventually, I was given the opportunity to prepare my own class and facilitate two different groups. This was a wonderful opportunity and humbling experience for me. I had the feeling it went well. I easily bonded and befriended a lot of the men,

and it was sometimes hard for me to distance myself from their traumatic stories. I realized that I took these stories with me to the outside world and into my own life.

Apart from the professional skills I have gained, this experience has touched and affected me deeply.

San Quentin has given me a new perspective on my future. The traumatic stories I was told weren't necessarily what was so

special in this prison. It was the way they were told and accepted by the rest of the class.

Jacques Verduin and Kathy Harris create an environment in which the group feels comfortable and safe to share and learn from each other. This is exceptional in an environment where usually nothing is shared

because of safety, status and honor. Nevertheless, the men speak out about what they have been through, bad decisions

they have made and moreover know what they need, never to make them again. At the same time the rest of men listen actively.

The men show a lot of genuine empathy and use each other's stories to learn from each other. Shy men are encouraged to speak and tears are welcomed as proof of the hard emotional work they are doing. I have to be honest and tell you that I have never seen such freedom, openness and authenticity outside of these walls. This is why I want to take this dialogue into the "free world" and into my life. I want to help people to listen and talk openly when they are in conflict. Furthermore, I would like to train people in how to facilitate this dialogue.

Because of this experience and my dreams for the future, earning a master's degree in social psychology is still exactly what I wish to do. The things I will learn next year will help me continue what I've found in San Quentin.

# Executions of Inmates With Low IQs Questioned

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Intellectually disabled convicts are being executed despite some judges saying it is cruel and unusual punishment, reports *New Scientist*.

A group of researchers, who specialize in psychometric testing and intellectual disabilities, found that some courts discard "key scientific facts surrounding IQ testing," according to the article.

First, the courts are ignoring the margin of error inherent in IQ testing. Second, "inmates are being condemned to death by inflated scores obtained by us-

ing older intelligent tests," the researchers say.

To demonstrate legally that someone is intellectually disabled, the person must have an IQ of less than 70, and have problems reading, writing, and functioning in society. These problems had to be present before the age of 18.

After the U.S. Supreme Court weighed in on the issue, its decision did not stipulate how to measure or decide an inmate's IQ, leaving the decision to individual states.

Lawyers for dozens of condemned men in several states say they have clients who are intellectually disabled and should

have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, Aldhous reports.

The Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is developing a manual on measuring intellectual disability, said Edward Polloway, the organization's co-chair. "It will take some of the subjectivity out of such decisions," said Polloway.

According to the article, some legal experts, including North Carolina Judge Kevin Foley, who is working on a book about intellectual disabilities and the death penalty, are not convinced courts will know what to do with the information in the manual.



Official Photo

The Execution Table in San Quentin's Death Chamber

## Prison More Desirable Than County Jail for Many Prisoners

By Thomas Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

Inmates sent to Fresno County jail say they would rather serve their sentences in state prison, reports KQED. The jail is seeing an influx of prisoners due to the state's realignment plan, which began shifting nonserious and non-violent offenders from state to county control in October 2011.

"There are no programs here. No school, no education, there's no jobs," Fresno County jail inmates told reporter Michael Montgomery.

The county is currently fighting a lawsuit claiming it provides inadequate health care to its inmates — similar claims that forced the state into realignment, says a report by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Realignment is Gov. Jerry Brown's response to a federal court order forcing California's overcrowded prisons to be reduced to levels that do not violate the U.S. constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Some counties, like San Francisco, Alameda, and Santa Cruz, are using the opportunity to expand community-based alternatives

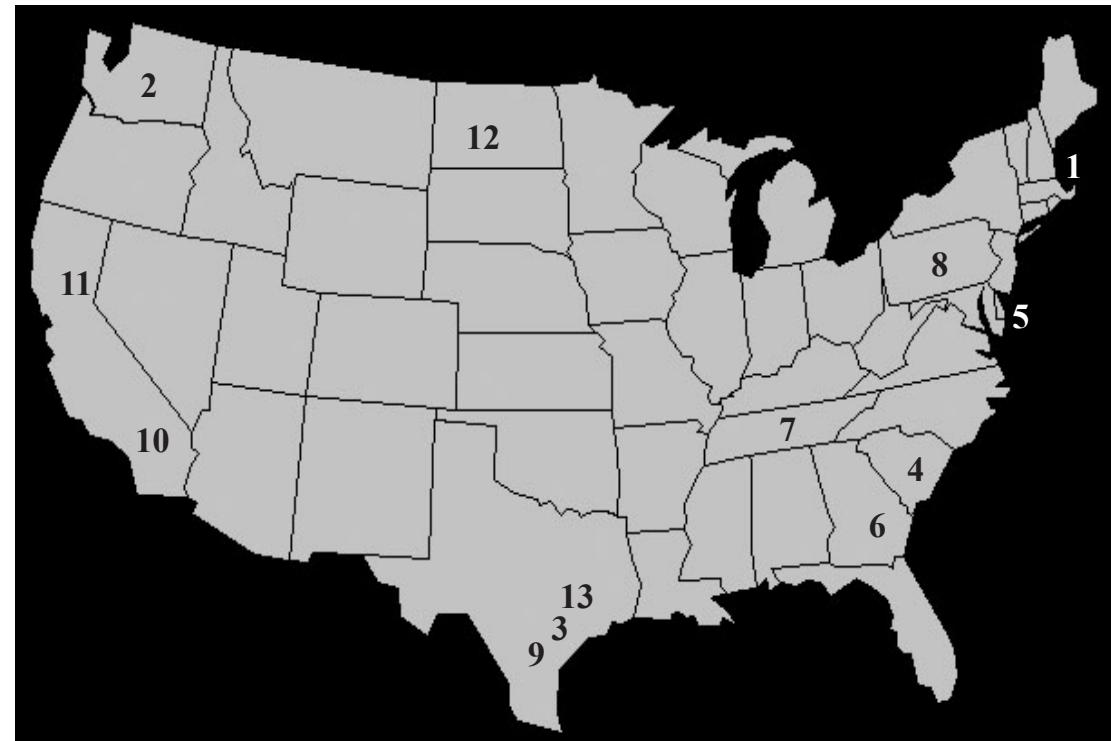
to incarceration. But Fresno County, which has historically sent high rates of people convicted of low-level, non-violent offenses to state prison, is spending most of its realignment money on more jail beds and law enforcement instead of rehabilitation services, according to a report by the ACLU.

Fresno County is spending 47 percent of its realign-

ment funds on new jail beds. Health, treatment and services only receive 13 percent of the money. Probation, sheriffs and other law enforcement agencies get the remaining 40 percent, according to the ACLU.

The Citizens United for a Responsible Budget gave Fresno County a failing mark on its realignment plan, criticizing its plan to reopen another floor of its jail.

## News Briefs



to separate inmates and visitors to a video system. The video system provides a more convenient, safer, cheaper alternative to in-person visits, said proponents of the system.

**6) ATLANTA** — The Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice has come out against mandatory minimum sentencing, reports The Associated Press. "We need to be open to new ideas rather than just put them away in prison as long as you can," said Chief Justice Carol Hunstein. "If you put someone in the prison system, you effectively have harmed their ability to get work, and you probably have harmed them socially, as far as coming out

and being a productive citizen."

**7) SHELBY COUNTY, Tenn.** — County officials say they will move their juvenile defense system into the office in charge of defending adults because of ineffective lawyers for children, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The move is anticipated to require 10 to 12 lawyers for the estimated 11,000 juvenile cases annually.

**8) HARRISBURG, Pa.** — State officials say a new law will save millions of taxpayer dollars by improving parole procedures. The new system calls for more parole interviews, reducing delays with

electronics, and implementing more rehabilitative programs for parolees in halfway houses, reports the Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau.

**9) HOUSTON, Texas** — The Board of Pardons and Parole reports that 31 percent of offenders were approved for parole from Sept 1, 2010 to Aug. 31, 2011. This represents 24,342 parole grants. The approval rate is six percentage points higher than it was 10 years ago. At the same time, the number of parole revocations decreased from a high of 11,374 in 2004 to 6,381 in 2011.

**10) LOS ANGELES** — The sheriff's department is requesting that the Board of Super-

visors approve sending 512 prisoners to Kern County at a cost of about \$75 million in contracts through 2017. The inmates would be housed at the Taft Community Correctional Facility, located about 40 miles southwest of Bakersfield. The cost to house a prisoner at Taft is \$60.55 per day. The cost in Los Angeles County is \$112.84 per day.

**11) SACRAMENTO** — One year into the state's realignment plan, 15,000 offenders were diverted from state prison to county jail, according to the Sacramento Bee. The report says 23,000 inmates are under the supervision of county probation officers instead of state parole agents. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that county probation departments appear to supervise offenders better than state parole agencies because county probationers are less likely to become fugitives than are state parolees.

**12) SIOUX FALLS, S.D.** — An inmate who killed a guard during an abortive prison escape attempt has been executed. Eric Robert, 50, was the first South Dakota inmate to die under the state's new single-drug lethal injection method, and only the 17th person to be executed in the state or Dakota Territory since 1877.

**13) AUSTIN, Texas** — Despite arguing he was mentally incompetent, a man convicted of raping and murdering a 12-year-old girl is the 10th person executed by Texas this year. Jonathan Green, 44, was the 31st person executed in the United States this year, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.



# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Over 11 years ago, the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001 pushed the United States into war. In addition to the thousands of innocent victims of the terrorist attacks, thousands of men and women in uniform have also lost their lives. We honor the members of our armed forces by remembering them and by honoring those who survived.

The men of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin (VVGSQ) also answered the call of duty when they enlisted to serve in the military. Asked On The Line conducted brief, informal interviews with a few of the members.

Of the 42 members, 22 were in the Army, 9 were in the Navy, 8 were in the Marine Corps, 2 were in the Air Force, one was in the Coast Guard and 25 members were on active duty during a war. The ages of the members

vary from 39 (Chris Schuhmacher) to 77 (Lawson Beavers). The longest-standing member is Harry Barton, 17 years, and the most recent member, Pedro Espinal, was voted in on Sept. 30.

Asked On The Line asked some of the VVGSQ members what they like most about the group.

Schuhmacher is not only the youngest member, he is also the group's chairman. "My favorite thing about the group is the camaraderie among the men and the positive impact of the projects we take on. It's important to have an opportunity to give back to people in the community," said Schuhmacher. "I am going to try to build camaraderie, even more so than now, so that we can be a source of support for each other and make the best of a bad situation. I'd like for us to do this with honor and dignity, which is what prompted us to join the military in the first place."

Pedro Espinal also likes the camaraderie of the group. "Brotherhood is important because you feel accepted by a community and can contribute."

Beavers described the VVGSQ as "a very caring group that wants to give back to the community." He especially likes the Holiday Toy Drive. "I like the expressions on the children's faces," said Beavers.

The VVGSQ was formed in 1987. Chief sponsor is corrections officer Lt. Evans; Lt. Luna is co-sponsor.

The group puts on events such as the Holiday Toy Program for children visiting their fathers at San Quentin, Operation MOMS that collects snacks and toiletries from the mainline population to ship to soldiers stationed overseas, and the Veterans Scholarship Award, to help high school graduates with college expenses.

## Back in the Day

Selected Story From a Past Issue of The San Quentin News

## Death Penalty Overturned 6 to 1

The following story was originally published in the San Quentin News on March 3, 1972.

By Phillip Clark

By a 6 to 1 decision, the California State Supreme Court has ruled the death penalty to be unconstitutional.

The Court's decision means that 107 men and women who now occupy death rows in two institutions may now be spared; among whom are Sirhan Sirhan, Charles Manson, and John Linley Frazier.

For almost the last five years, California has had a moratorium on executions pending decisions of both the State and U.S. Supreme Courts.

The last man to die in San Quentin's famous green room was Aaron Mitchell, who was executed for the murder of a policeman. He died in April of 1967.

Not waiting upon the Federal High Court to act, the state Supreme Court went ahead on its own acting upon a petition by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

The case of Robert P. Anderson was argued by Stanford law professor Anthony Amsterdam at a Los Angeles session of the state Supreme Court, wherein the argument was presented that capital punishment is "severe beyond all human comprehension."

Amsterdam said: "For man deliberately and needlessly to take life – which he does not understand – which leads he knows not where – is an act that eclipses every other cruelty humanity can mete out or bear."

The state, through Deputy Attorney General Ronald M. George argued that the death penalty protects society from murders, and that if it is constituted "cruel and unusual" punishment it would have been outlawed in California years ago.

California is the second state to rule that capital punishment is unconstitutional. New Jersey made a similar decision in January.

The historic decision has posed some questions as to the eligibility of such accused as Angela Davis for release on bail.

Charged with murder, kidnap, and conspiracy for the Aug. 21 shootout at the Marin Civic center, it is now being argued that Miss Davis is eligible for bail due to the fact that the offenses she is charged with are no longer capital.

"Technically speaking" one spokesman said, "the U.S. Supreme Court does not control the California Supreme Court. Yesterday's decision was based strictly on the State Constitution."

At this writing, the office of Attorney General Evelle J. Younger has not had the opportunity to study the decision.

The court said the question was whether the death penalty, when judged by contemporary standards, "is either cruel or has become an unusual punishment." The court found it to be both.

At present, there has been no decision as to where to house, or in what institution, the 102 men and five women now on the rows.

Some may be absorbed into the mainline population, while others, such as Robert F. Kennedy's assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, may have to be confined under strict control out of fear for his life.

"We must approach this thing with caution," said Warden Louis S. Nelson. "There are some inmates on death row who are not ready to mix with other prisoners because they are dangerous."

Nelson admitted, however, that he knows of men who had been on death row, and after commutation, were paroled and "are doing fine."

Sen. George Deukmejian (R – Long Beach) has introduced a constitutional amendment which would give the state legislature specific authority to prescribe capital punishment for certain cases.

If the amendment passes the legislature, it will be subject to a vote by the people on a statewide basis.

### Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.

- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.

- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
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Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
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School of Journalism

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

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## Voters Amend Three Strikes Law

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT UPHELD BY A NARROW MARGIN OF STATE VOTERS

By John C. Eagan  
Senior Adviser

Voters have approved major changes to the Three Strikes Law, but rejected attempts to abolish capital punishment in California.

With most of the Nov. 6 votes tallied, the Three Strikes Law, Proposition 36, won 69.1 percent to 30.9 percent. The vote total was 7,943,034 yes to 3,556,723 no. The death penalty initiative, Proposition 34, lost 47.8 percent to 52.2 percent, which was 5,171,414 yes and 6,034,428 no.

The death penalty initiative would have abolished capital punishment, and retroactively substituted life without the possibility of parole for the more than 700 men and women on Death Row.

Proposition 34 also would have directed \$100 million to law enforcement agencies for investigations of homicide and rape cases. The state voter guide estimated it would have saved about \$130 million annually within a few years. It also would have represented costs of \$100 million for local

law enforcement grants. Three Strikes changes permit an estimated 3,000 prison inmates to petition courts for sentence reductions.

The official voter summary says Proposition 36: "Revises law to impose a life sentence only when new felony conviction is serious or violent. May authorize re-sentencing if third strike conviction was not serious or violent."

The summary estimates ongoing state correctional savings of around \$70 million annually, with even greater

savings (up to \$90 million annually) over the next couple of decades.

Proposition 36 supporters said the initiative "restores the original intent of the Three Strikes Law by focusing on violent criminals...Nonviolent offenders get twice the ordinary prison sentence."

The legislative analyst says of Proposition 36: "The measure limits eligibility for resentencing to third strikers whose current offense is non-serious, non-violent and who have not committed specific

current and prior offenses, such as certain drug-, sex-, and gun-related felonies."

The analyst adds, "The court would be required to re-sentence eligible offenders unless it determines that re-sentencing the offenders would pose an unreasonable risk to public safety. In determining whether an offender poses such a risk, the court could consider any evidence it determines is relevant, such as the offender's criminal history, behavior in prison, and participation in rehabilitation program."

## Secretary Cate Leaves CDCR

BROWN APPOINTS MARTIN HOSHINO AS ACTING SECRETARY OF CDCR

By San Quentin News Staff

Matthew Cate has announced his resignation as head of California's prison system to lead the organization representing the state's 58 counties.

Gov. Jerry Brown chose Martin Hoshino as acting secretary to replace Cate. Hoshino has been undersecretary of administration and offender services since May 2011. He previously served as executive officer for the Board of Parole Hearings and as chief assistant inspector general.

Cate says under his four-and-a-half-year leadership recidivism rates were reduced, spending was decreased, the percentage of prisoners and parolees receiving rehabilitative services was increased, and five class-action lawsuits were ended.

He also said, "The federal receiver is winding down his operations and our medical and mental health care is vastly improved."

His resignation was effective Nov. 11. His new job is executive

See *Changing Guard* on Page 4



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Secretary Matthew Cate and California's First Lady Anne Brown during a recent visit to San Quentin



Photo By Sam Hearnes

Incarcerated musician Reginald Austin grooves on piano with guest jazz musicians

## Musicians Honor Jazz Artist

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Staff Writer

It was a night of music when a San Quentin prisoner took the stage with several renowned musicians to pay tribute to former inmate and jazz artist Frank Morgan, who died last year.

The Protestant Chapel was filled with sound on Oct. 12 when prisoner and jazz pianist Reginald Ausin performed with bass player Ron Carter, alto sax-

ophonists Grace Kelly and Mark Gross, trombonist Delphius Marcellus, pianist George Cable and Marvin "Smitty" Smith on the drums.

"Being on that stage and playing in tribute to my friend Frank Morgan with Marcellus and the crew was just amazing," Austin said. "For me, heaven couldn't get much better."

Austin said it was an honor to play in memory of Morgan and speak the language of mu-

sic without ever having to say a word.

"I thank God I was ready when the opportunity came," said Austin. He said that Morgan was a major influence on his style and development in music.

While Austin was playing, Cable was listening and watching over Austin's shoulder.

"At that point I knew my music was saying something that he

See *Jazz Musicians* on Page 4

## Prisoners Seek Racial Peace

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

A multi-racial group of prisoners is calling for an end to all racial hostilities in California prisons and jails, and a "return to a rehabilitative-type system of meaningful programs/privileges, including lifer conjugal visits."

The group said, "all racial group hostilities need to be at an end...and if personal issues arise between individuals, people need to do all they can to exhaust all diplomatic means to settle such disputes; do not allow personal, individual issues to escalate into racial group issues!"

Terry Thornton, CDCR deputy press secretary, said the de-

partment "is hopeful that the inmates are sincere in their desire to reduce violence in prisons. CDCR's mission to operate its prisons safely and humanely is paramount and offenders should also be accountable for their own behavior and take responsibility for reducing violence."

See *Coalition* on Page 4

# Felix Lucero Paroles, Aiming for S.F. State

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

A lifer well known for his cheerful attitude paroled after serving 18 years in prison. Felix Lucero had been a 16-year-old high school student and a part-time museum maintenance worker before he was sentenced to an 18 years-to-life term.

Today, at age 34, with both a college degree and a certification in drug counseling in hand, he leaves a kitchen maintenance prison job to start a new life in a different world he never saw as an adult.

Before arriving at San Quentin, Lucero did time at two

other institutions: Mule Creek and Folsom. But while at San Quentin, he embarked on a mission to prepare himself for his future.

## *"I am taking San Quentin with me."*

"I think I was seriously involved in about 10 groups while at San Quentin," said Lucero. He listed his top five groups as SQUIRES, TRUST, Arts In Corrections, Alliance, and ARC. Lucero also graduated from Patton College, operated by the Prison University Project, earn-

ing his Associate of Arts degree in 2009 as that year's valedictorian.

As for the future, "I'm planning on paroling to the city of Berkeley and enrolling at San Francisco State University through Project Rebound," said Lucero. "I have a job offer to be a drug addiction counselor and I want to continue to work with The Last Mile."

He is especially proud of maintaining a close relationship with his daughter, Desiree.

As he headed out the gate, his parting words for the men at San Quentin: "I am taking San Quentin with me as a place that has a spirit of change."



Photo By Tom Bolema

Felix Lucero playing guitar during a recent yard event

# Realignment Falls Short of Expected Goals

By San Quentin News Staff

California's realignment plan alone will not be enough to fix its overcrowded prisons and reduce its high recidivism rate, according to *California Prison Realignment One-Year Anniversary: An American Civil Liberties Union Assessment*.

Realignment diverts some newly convicted felons to county jails, instead of state prisons. The plan is also designed to bring down recidivism by changing the state parole system and local probation programs. The state has the second-highest recidivism rate in the country, at 65.1 percent.

The state prison population has dropped by nearly 25,000 as

a result of realignment, according to the report.

Part of the intention of realignment was to encourage counties to use and expand evidence-based alternatives to incarceration.

However, many counties are expanding their jails. Since realignment began, county jail capacity has increased by more than 7,000 beds, and one billion dollars in state lease-revenue bonds are "in the pipeline" for the construction of an additional 10,000 county jail beds, according to the report.

"Building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns is not sustainable, and will not result in improving public safety," the report says.

The report warns that realignment has the potential to become just a shell game of shifting inmates from doing time in state facilities to county jails.

## *"Realignment has the potential to become just a shell game."*

The state should institute modest sentencing reforms that would decrease the numbers of people sentenced to prison and jail — reforms which has saved money in other states, including Michigan, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Virginia, the report recommends.

It also recommends that state officials should "discourage counties from repeating the same failed policies that led to California's prison overcrowding and recidivism crises."

The report examined two senate bills that would have saved money for the state and counties without jeopardizing public safety. Neither bill was enacted in spite of strong public support.

Senate Bill 210 would have required judges to consider whether pretrial detainees with minimal risk could be released for community monitoring if they could not afford bail.

Senate Bill 1506 would have added California to the list of 13 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal gov-

ernment that treat possession of drugs for personal use as a misdemeanor instead of a felony.

The report made the following recommendations:

- Reduce the penalty for possession of small amounts of drugs
- Reduce the penalty for low-level, non-violent property offenses
- Limit the amount of time someone can spend incarcerated in county jails
- Release detainees from county jails who are awaiting trial who pose no risk to public safety
- Institute standardized data collection and reporting methods to record how counties are budgeting realignment funds

# 'Public Defenders Do Better Job'

PHILADELPHIA COURTS STUDY FINDS BIG DIFFERENCE

By Ted Swain  
Journalism Guild Writer

The outcome of criminal cases is significantly affected by the resources and competency of legal counsel, according to a Rand Corp. study of Philadelphia courts.

"The differences in outcome are striking," says the report issued in December 2011. The report studied the Philadelphia Public Defender's Office because it is the only defender's office in the country where the office is randomly assigned every fifth murder defendant, while the remainder receive court-appointed private attorneys.

The report concluded that, compared to the court-appointed attorneys, the Public Defender legal team reduced the murder conviction rate by 19 percent. They reduced the probability that their clients received a life sentence by 62 percent. Furthermore, they reduced the

overall expected time served in prison by 24 percent.

This suggests that the "defense counsel function makes an enormous difference in the outcome," says the report for the National Institute of Justice.

The study suggests that public defenders may spend more time preparing each case than the private attorneys, in part due to financial incentives. In the Philadelphia system, independent appointed legal counsel receives a flat fee of \$2,000 for pre-trial preparation if the case goes to trial. While on trial, independent attorneys receive \$400 per day.

By comparison, the report says federal court attorneys earn \$125 per hour in non-death penalty cases and \$185 per hour in death penalty cases. Rand reports that "many respected attorneys refuse to be on the list to accept court appointments."

The Philadelphia Public Defenders, however, are on a fixed salary and can spend as much time on a case as required. The

defender's office had also developed a team specializing in homicide cases, and the team had its own investigators and expert resources.

The 47-page document concludes, "a defendant's time imprisoned may dramatically change as a function of the ordering in which cases are brought, a fact which raises troubling questions about the fairness and arbitrariness of the current system."

The report concluded that had the 2,459 defendants who were not represented by the public defenders office actually been represented by them, 270 of them would not have been convicted. If the public defender legal team had represented all defendants, the aggregate prison terms would have decreased by a total of 6,400 years, saving \$200 million, according to the report.

"The criminal justice system should mete out fine justice," the report concludes. "Our findings suggest how far from this goal we are."

INSIDE THE 40-YEAR CAMPAIGN TO COVER UP EVIDENCE THAT SUGAR KILLS | Who Fracked Romney? (Want us?)

# Mother Jones

SMART, FEARLESS JOURNALISM

November + December 2012

**"Solitary in Iran nearly broke me. I never thought I'd see worse in American prisons."**

—an investigation by former hostage Shane Bauer

Mother Jones has agreed to mail a copy of the magazine containing Shane Bauer's story to each prisoner who requests it. Write to Mother Jones Magazine, Attn: Customer Service, 222 Sutter St., Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94108

# Prisoners Benefit From Artist's Workshop

By Adam Barboza  
Journalism Guild Writer

Renowned artist David Leffel spent two days teaching San Quentin inmates the fine points of painting with oils.

"Most beginners try to transfer what they see on to canvas with exactness, and that's not a reality," Leffel told the students.

"Don't get stuck in the middle, where you can't see where you're going, worrying too much about details," he added. "You should keep it simple and work with big strokes, then finish by moving values and paint around to make your painting come alive."

Leffel came to San Quentin as part of the Prison Art Project workshop, sponsored by the Williams James Association.

He gave the inmates painting tips, from basics like how to hold a paint brush to more complex points like being aware of light and shadows.

During the first day, Leffel painted a portrait of an inmate named Fred Tinsley, while explaining to inmates what they

should keep in mind when they are painting.

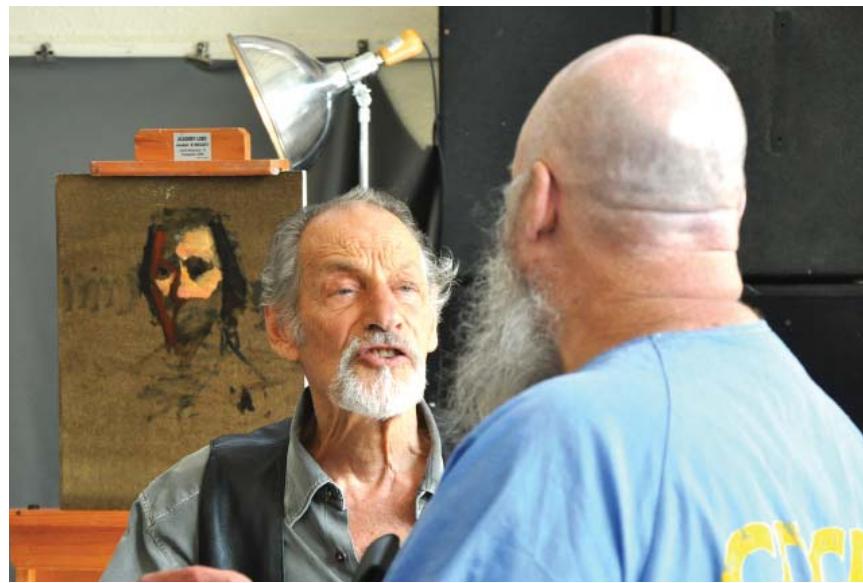
"Just sitting there watching David paint my image was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Tinsley. "The intensity in his eyes had a master's look. What a privilege."

On the second day, two inmates modeled as students practiced what they had learned the first day. Leffel went around helping and encouraging each student individually.

"He's a very profound man with a passion for art. For two days it was like being at a university," said inmate Gary Harrill.

"It was inspiring to see an artist who's made it," said Josh Locke. "It gave me an idea of where I am and where I want to be. He brought it all together. That was his gift to me, to view a painting in a different light."

Leffel came with Carlos Grasso, his friend, publisher, assistant, agent and student who is also an artist. At age 4, Leffel contracted a bone disease which kept him bed-ridden until age 15, getting around



Artist David Lafelle offers Paul Stauffer instruction on painting techniques

Photo by Mike Nelson

with crutches and a wheelchair. The disease left him with a bad leg, yet for two days he only sat down for a quick lunch with the inmates.

"To see a painting in a photograph or magazine is one thing,

but to actually see the paint applied to canvas the way David did was sublime," said Scott McKinstry.

"David Leffel's workshop was a thrill to watch. To see the model's face emerge from the

dark background was magic. His use of paint was brilliant," said art instructor Pat Maloney.

"I had always wanted to work with oils, and David made it all look easy," said Kalifah Christiansen.

# DNA Evidence Frees 300 Prisoners Nationwide

By Jason McGinnis  
Contributing Writer

Damon Thibodeaux confessed to raping and killing his 14-year-old cousin and spent more than 15 years on Louisiana's Death Row, but was cleared by DNA evidence earlier this year and has now been released from prison.

He was the 300th prisoner freed nationwide by DNA tests — 18 of whom were on Death Row, according to lawyers from

the New York-based Innocence Project.

Crystal Champagne was last seen on July 19, 1996, as she left to go to a local supermarket and never returned. An investigation ensued and her body was found the next evening under a bridge with her pants down and a wire around her neck.

Detectives began interrogating potential witnesses, including Thibodeaux. He insisted he was coerced into giving a false confession after nine hours of

interrogation. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 1997.

In 2007, Thibodeaux's legal team persuaded the local district attorney's office to investigate the case. After thousands of dollars spent on further investigation, which was shared by both sides, DNA testing proved that Thibodeaux was not Crystal's killer and that she was not raped.

"It feels good. I am still processing it," Thibodeaux, 38, said in an interview with the

Los Angeles Times. "I feel great sympathy for the Champagne family," he said. He hopes Crystal's killer "is found and tried."

"It's hard to put myself in Thibodeaux's shoes," said San Quentin prisoner Frankie Prater. "I cannot comprehend having to go to Death Row knowing that I am innocent." Prater said that DNA evidence is a good tool for determining innocence. "The truth will always set you free."

"The criminal justice system has always worked in the system's favor," said another San Quentin prisoner, Allen Webb. "They have been doing stuff like interrogating witnesses and coercing them into confessions for years. DNA evidence is great and could have made a big difference many years ago."

Thibodeaux will receive approximately \$250,000 in compensation for his wrongful conviction and imprisonment.

## Innocent Man Freed After Nineteen Years

By Ron Koehler  
Journalism Guild Writer

Charges have been dismissed for a Los Angeles man who spent 19 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

"I had good days and bad days, I stayed hopeful and that's all I could do," John Edwards Smith, 37, said outside the downtown jail. "I'm not bitter at all, because that ain't going to get me nowhere. I've got to move on."

Smith was freed after a group called Innocence Matters gathered evidence that the man who testified against Smith lied under police pressure.

Smith's lawyer, Deirdre O'Conner, said the sole witness was the shooting victim who had survived the incident that left one man dead. His testimony helped convict Smith.

Smith always maintained he was not in the area or involved in the shooting.

O'Conner, who heads the Torrance-based public interest firm Innocence Matters, reported in papers filed with the court that Smith's accuser, Landu Mvuemba, said he falsely identified Smith as the shooter under police pressure.

San Quentin prisoners responded to the AP article referring to Smith's case, which began by identifying Smith as a former gang member.

One said, "Gang member? What's up with that? Why is 'gang' mentioned first?" Another said, "What do you expect? The prosecution always chooses their suspect first."

Another proclaimed that gang members are prime targets for the authorities. Still another said that a prime suspect is always chosen first, and evidence is built around that suspect to confirm that suspect's guilt. Another explained that prosecutors were like jaguars, and picked out the weak as prey.

## S.F. Juvenile Prisoners Dislike Outdoors

By San Quentin News Staff

About two-thirds of the boys and girls detained at San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Center say they do not like outdoor recreation, according to a poll by the San Francisco Youth Commission, reports the Bay Citizen.

The commission has been concerned with the amount of fresh air, sunlight, and exercise the youngsters were receiving. In February, they drafted a resolution calling for detainees to have regular access to a large outdoor space at the hall that had sat unused since it was built in 2006 as part of a \$47 million renovation. By law, juvenile detainees are entitled to one hour of outdoor "large-muscle" exercise each day.

William Siffemann, chief of juvenile probation, said then that most of the yard could not be used due to security concerns and staff shortages. Siffemann also pointed out that, "Some kids don't want to go outside, and I can't force them out there."

According to the poll, only 10 of the 53 respondents said they participated in outdoor exercise every day. "When they did participate, nearly a third reported spending less than an hour outside," the Bay Citizen reports.

The lack of interest in outdoor recreation took the youth commission by surprise, they said.

"It's pretty clear that young people are not getting their hour a day outdoors," commission director Mario Yedidia told The Chronicle. "The culture of the institution seems like it's not re-

ally encouraging of outdoor exercise."

All but one of the detainees surveyed said they liked visiting the indoor gym, but almost half said they used it fewer than four days a week.

Subsequent inquiries by the commission raised questions about the hall's compliance with state regulations. Although a 2010 state inspection found no compliance issues at the facility, the commission and Board of Supervisors asked Siffemann to provide documentation showing how often individual detainees go outside.

Until now, staff at the hall has not recorded that information, but Siffemann told The Bay Citizen that he would report those numbers to the youth commission on a quarterly basis.

# Another S.Q. Teacher Lost to Budget Cuts

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Staff Writer

Education staffer Hazel Koons has been laid off amid budget cuts, but she says she has learned how important learning is to prison inmates.

After she began working here two years ago, Koons said she began noticing her students excelling in their academic learning. She says tutoring prisoners of San Quentin has been very rewarding.

"They were taking their life experiences and relating them to what they were learning. I was seeing the lights," she said.

One thing Koons said she learned while working at San Quentin is the media misrepresent the whole picture of the person in prison; the character of the person going to prison stops with the headline when he or she is found guilty.

"Inmate identity is very generalized, meaning that within

the prison you're differentiated by your sentence and the time you're doing," Koons said. "But the media and the legislation portray inmate identity as one blanket person, that being a criminal."

## FRIENDS AND FAMILY

When asked how her friends and family responded to her decision to work at San Quentin, she said her friends did not want to talk about it but her family was supportive.

"Once I made the choice they wanted me to have physical exposure," she said. "It's called immersion, getting in there and doing it."

For Koons, immersion is also a part of being a community activist: "I've always had a strong identity in standing up and taking in what I've learned then speaking about it."

She said being a community activist prepared her to work in this environment. "There were

times when it was tough, but once I got into tutoring, the men were eager to learn, (and) I knew I could handle it," she said.

In the beginning, the person who guided her was Ted Roberts, who was the principal when she started.

"When I started here two years ago, Roberts was the biggest go-getter. He would definitely make phone calls," Koons said. "Roberts was a man who thought outside of the walls and made positive things happen here."

However, what troubled Koons were supervisors whose agendas were not aligned with education.

## GREAT TUTOR

Tom Bolema, literacy coordinator for the Robert E. Burton School at San Quentin, said Koons is on her way to becoming a great teacher because she was such a great tutor.

"Hazel's a natural," said Mr. Thomas, a teacher for Robert E.



Photo By Phil Phillips

Hazel Koonz happily at work in education at S.Q.

Burton Adult School of Education. "She had an ability to check for understanding when working with students. Many teachers will teach a lesson and expect the student to understand, and they do not."

San Quentin resident Orlando Harris, who worked with Koons, said she was smart and always wanted to help.

"She always wanted to affect positive change in the classroom and in our lives," said Harris. "She'll be sorely missed."

Koons said her plans definitely include continuing as an educator.

"I love being a teacher," said Koons. "I'm a trans-national feminist. I believe education is important for all who are incarcerated, especially women."

## WOMEN'S ISSUES

"Women's issues cross borders, meaning that one woman's struggle here is no different from another woman's struggle in another country. The same goes for rehabilitation," said Koons. "I felt that rehabilitation was important, so I applied here, and after I got the job, I moved up here."

## Changing Guard

*Continued from Page 1*

director of the California State Association of Counties. His 2011 state salary was \$215,471; his new salary will be \$288,000 and he will be eligible for a state pension, reports the Los Angeles Times.

Cate acknowledged much more is left to accomplish, admitting, "Implementation of public safety realignment has been very challenging for everyone and we must continue to work through the remaining operational issues, while taking



Acting Secretary Hoshino

care of the impacted employees."

Part of his new job will entail helping counties find ways to cope with the influx of prisoners and parolees resulting from the state's prison realignment program, as well as lobbying the state Legislature for the money to do so.

## Continued from Page 1

The advocates are serving time at California's super-max facility, Pelican Bay. Some were part of a class-action lawsuit against Gov. Jerry Brown and the state's top prison official, Matthew Cate, alleging their living conditions produced "harmful and predictable psychological deterioration" by keeping them "for an unconscionably long period of time without meaningful review of their placement solitary confinement."

In the letter intended to reach all California prisoners, the group wrote, "we must

all hold strong to our mutual agreement from this point on and focus our time, attention and energy on mutual causes beneficial to all of us and our best interests."

The prisoner advocates inside Pelican Bay are:

- Todd Ashker, C58191, D1-119
- Arturo Castellanos, C17275, D1-121
- Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (Dewberry) C35671, D1-117
- Antonio Guillen, P81948, D2-106
- Danny Troxell, B76578, D1-120
- George Franco, D46556, D4-217
- Ronnie Yandell, V27927, D4-215
- Paul Redd, B72683, D2-117
- James Baridi Williamson, D-34288 D4-107
- Alfred Sandoval, D61000, D4-214
- Louis Powell, B59864, D1-104
- Alex Yrigollen, H32421, D2-204
- Gabriel Huerta, C80766, D3-222
- Frank Clement, D07919, D3-116
- Raymond Chavo Perez, K12922, D1-219
- James Mario Perez, B48186, D3-124

## Coalition Calls for Peace

## Jazz Musicians Visit San Quentin to Remember Legend

*Continued from Page 1*

wasn't used to hearing," Austin said.

As a child, Austin took lessons from Kathryn Muller, a piano teacher who was a Holocaust survivor and a concert pianist in Germany until World War II.

"Muller taught me music, etiquette and to have pride in myself. She taught me to be a man of culture," Austin said. "What she shared with me never goes out of style."

### PRISON

Austin began his prison term in 1977, and he said he was looking for something to keep his spirits up while pursuing his love of music.

"I met Morgan here at San Quentin in 1981 through my friend Luke Oliver, a bass player, when I was just beginning my life sentence," Austin said. "My background was in classical mu-

sic, but Morgan introduced me to bebop."

Soon after meeting, both musicians began playing in a band called Brothers of Soul, formed inside San Quentin. As his friendship with Morgan grew, they had conversations on Bach inventions, and Austin learned to incorporate bebop into his classical training.]

"Bach inventions for a pianist are short pieces, and when they're expounded upon, each piece evolves with every interpretation," Austin said. "Eventually, I incorporated the bebop that Morgan gave me with my classical knowledge of Bach."

Austin has been able to develop his own style of playing, which has become a mainstay in his music.

"But that night was special," Austin said. "We played in memory of a great alto jazz saxophonist, a man who was my friend, Frank Morgan."



Reginald Austin displays a message of peace with a guest after an evening of jazz

# Language Creates Barrier To Rehabilitation for Some

By Miguel Quezada  
Journalism Guild Writer

Language barriers are preventing some prisoners from participating in many of the self-help programs at San Quentin State Prison.

Although prison staff and the Community Partnership Manager make a concerted effort to bring bi-lingual volunteers into the prison, it is not proportionate to the diversity of San Quentin's general population.

San Quentin's recreational yard reveals a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities and languages. Many are of Latino descent and other origins and are unable to fluently speak, read or write in English.

"This is a big issue for Latinos that needs to be addressed," says Gustavo Pureco, a Spanish-speaking inmate. "There is no English as a Second Language (ESL)

class in San Quentin's education department. The tools to help us solve this problem are not available."

Due to across-the-board budget cuts made in California in the past years, ESL classes have been eliminated at many of its institutions, creating a void of resources specific to addressing the language barrier.

## *"This is a big issue for Latinos that needs to be addressed"*

A concern, especially among the Latino men serving life sentences, is that they can't progress in their educational endeavors, such as earning a GED, or complete self-help programs like anger management-oriented groups, "that the parole board has asked me to complete before my next

consideration," said Santos Rene Flores.

To illustrate the problem, the standard education department classes available are Adult Basic Education 1, 2 and 3. Placement in each depends on the students' score on the English formatted Test of ABE.

The result is that when non-English-reading, speaking or writing students have low TABE scores, they will be placed in ABE 1, a class not designed to address the underlying language barrier. Such students must struggle to learn in a language other than their own.

"I take advantage of every opportunity given to me where I can practice speaking and hearing English," said Jesus Manzanares. "But it falls short of what I need in order to learn English and earn the education that I need so that I can be successful when I re-enter into society."

## Problems in Classrooms Could Lead to Incarceration in Prison

By Charles Brooks  
Journalism Guild Writer

Suspensions and expulsions from schools create a "school-to-prison pipeline," according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Such policies and practices disproportionately affect those of color, according to the ACLU.

"The 'school-to-prison pipeline' refers to the policies and practices that push our nation's schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This pipeline reflects the prioritization of incarceration over education," the ACLU report states.

"One out of every three black boys in Oakland's public school system was suspended during the 2010-2011 academic year for bad behavior," according to Oakland Tribune columnist Tammerlin Drummond.

Drummond said that to find out the details that lead youngsters away from school and into the criminal justice system, "just ask the men at San Quentin."

The San Quentin News did just that. Here are some responses:

Donavan Norwood said he was suspended from Calvin

Simmons Jr. High School for "playing in the rain," and the San Quentin inmate admits it was not the first time. Simmons also said he was suspended "plenty of times for fighting and coming to class late."

Many prisoners who read about the racial disparities had the same response: "No surprise."

Some of the men had tearful memories of their experiences with school discipline.

A Los Angeles man, Paul Davenport, said not being able to talk to anyone about his mother's death caused him to act out in school. His misbehaving was treated with a spanking by a teacher and vice principal. He said it was the beginning of his fighting days. "Eventually I dropped out of school," Davenport said.

Todd Jones said he was once suspended for throwing a basketball at a sea gull. He said he was only trying to run the bird off so he could play basketball. Jones said he was on probation at the time of the suspension.

The incident led to a violation of his probation, so he was sent to juvenile hall. After that, "I became acclimated to 150th" (the location of the Alameda County's juvenile hall lock-up in San

Leandro, on 150th Avenue), said Jones.

"I quit going to Oakland High school after becoming a target, after being expelled for disobedience," said Norwood.

"Life is a test and you get your final grade when you die," said one prisoner who wishes to remain anonymous. "Imagine if God was as cruel as some of these unsympathetic teachers who don't consider some students have to duck bullets just to attend class," he said.

"I was expelled by choice," said Al McInnis, a 21-year-old Oakland native. "I was deliberately being disobedient at Low Junior High. I wanted to hang in the street."

Dropping out of school led him to prison, he said. "A solution to the problem is to bring ex-cons to the youth, and have us talk to them."

"Instead of flooding our communities with guns and drugs, we need to invest in new books," said one prisoner.

"Teach the teacher how to give a damn enough to ask what's wrong before resorting to expulsion," said another.

--Kevin D. Sawyer, San Quentin Journalism Guild, contributed to this story.

## Where to Find 12 Step Programs at San Quentin On the Main Yard

**A.A.** Monday and Wednesday 6:20 p.m. (Education Bldg)  
Friday at 1:30 p.m., Saturday at 6:20 p.m. (ARC Module)  
**N.A.** Tuesday and Friday at 6:20 p.m. (ARC Module)

### In H-Unit

**A.A.** Tuesday and Thursday (Education Bldg)  
All are welcome. Simply show up!

## EDUCATION CORNER



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Bill Reeves addressing the 2012 graduation class

## Respected Educator Leaves San Quentin

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

the educational process work better for prisoners and staff.

"I like working with students on one level, but I also like working with teachers to help at the organizational structure of the system," said Reeves.

After statewide funding cuts to prison education in 2010, Reeves vacated the vice principal position and returned to the classroom as a teacher in H-Unit, a change that he said he welcomed.

He could have taken a career path that would have made a rich man, Reeves said. But he knows he has a greater impact on society by helping incarcerated people receive an education.

"Follow your passion," said Reeves, referring to how a Steve Jobs' commencement speech at Stanford University motivated him. "The speech made me think of how I should lead my life. I thought of the last line in my favorite poem, by Robert Frost, 'The Road Not Taken.' I took the road less traveled, and that has made all the difference."

His last day at San Quentin was Sept. 14.

"I am not closing the door on coming back to San Quentin," said Reeves. "However, my career path is just going in a different direction right now."

## David Lewis Case Dismissed

By San Quentin News Staff

appeal the dismissal or file new charges.

Murder charges have been dismissed against a man accused of fatally shooting noted community activist David Lewis in 2010.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Stephen Hall tossed the murder charge and a related gun charge on Nov. 8. He ruled police inappropriately obtained a confession from Gregory Elarms, 60, and violated his Miranda rights.

District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said his office will review the case to decide whether to

Wagstaffe said the case holds particular community interest because of Lewis' decades of work in East Palo Alto and the Bay Area, advocating for "the downtrodden" and working to reintegrate former inmates and parolees into productive roles in society. A community building was recently named in Lewis' honor.

"We have to do everything in our power to make sure Mr. Elarms faces justice," Wagstaffe said.

# S.F. Approach Towards Realignment Effective

By Ron Koehler  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco officials are boasting the city's lowest jail population in 40 years, while 32 other counties are building more jail beds to accommodate Gov. Jerry Brown's realignment plan.

"The sky is not falling," said San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, referring to realignment critics.

San Francisco has been touted as a model for rehabilitation programs, according to Wendy Still, the city's Adult Probation Department chief. She said each prisoner is individually assessed

to determine what services may best help in eliminating further criminal behavior.

"Probation officials now responsible for low-risk parolees are doing extensive prerelease planning," reports Still.

The city is building a \$1.3 million service center to match convicts with social services,

the San Francisco Examiner reports. The newspaper reported the Department of Public Health, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender's Office, and District Attorney's Offices have all implemented realignment plans.

Rather than the traditional approach to incarceration, San Francisco probation officials

said every prisoner is individually assessed to determine what services will best help prevent further criminal behavior.

Former convicts are being connected to job training, housing, substance abuse and mental health services, and also basic necessities such as identification cards, officials report.

## Realignment Causes Population Spike in L. A. Jail

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

California's realignment plan has caused a 23 percent increase in Los Angeles' jail population, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The plan shifts some newly convicted offenders to county jails, instead of state prisons. It

is also intended to reduce recidivism by changing the state parole system and local probation programs.

The state prison population has dropped by nearly 25,000 because of realignment, according to a report by the American Civil Liberties Union. Part of realignment's intent is to persuade counties to use and expand

evidence-based alternatives to incarceration, the report says.

However, the plan has created an additional burden on county officials – dealing with a flood of detainees with a history of mental illness, the Times says.

Officials are using LA county's realignment funding to implement mental health and re-entry programs, the Times

reported. Implementing realignment gives county officials more time to help inmates with mental issues and gain stability in the community once released, mental health providers say.

"It used to be that we saw people short term," said Francesca Anello, overseer of the county Mental Health Department. "So it was difficult to get

them hooked up in the community if they're going in and out so quickly. And so we'd miss an opportunity sometimes to work with them long-term," said Anello in the Times report.

Realignment is motivating social service agencies to work with local law enforcement in innovative ways, the Times reported.

## Illinois Prisons Stay Open Despite Governor's Plan

By Paul Stauffer  
Journalism Guild Writer

A state arbitrator has stymied Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's plan to close two prisons, saying that state officials must first properly negotiate with union representatives about the impact of the closures, reports The Associated Press.

The governor wanted the prisons closed by late October, but Arbitrator Steven Bierig found prison officials violated its contract with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union, reports the AP.

The governor's communications director said the decision is being appealed.

State lawmakers disagreed with the prison closures and set aside money in the budget to keep them open. Quinn vetoed the budget, saying the state

could not afford the prisons' operating cost.

When corrections officials began moving prisoners out of the Tamms facility to the Pontiac Correctional Center in August, union officials filed a lawsuit asking the judge to declare the arbitrator's decision binding and order the state to comply, according to the AP.

The union's executive director said the Legislature funded the prisons because they recognized closing the prisons would "destabilize the entire prison system, worsen dangerous overcrowding and put the safety of employees, inmates, youth and the public at risk."

The union has since filed another lawsuit claiming that mixing prisoners they deem dangerous with other prisoners, coupled with the overcrowding, would violate a health and safety clause in the union contract.

### Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison and jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

## Nine Ways to Reduce Overcrowding

A business internet site is recommending a series of ways to reduce prison overcrowding in the wake of last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

BusinessInsider.com said its suggestions listed below would not jeopardize public safety.

1. Relax Truth-in-Sentencing laws. The law requires offenders to serve 85 percent of their prison sentence. States that resist implementing the 85 percent standard became ineligible to receive federal block grants that were authorized by the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.

2. Replace mandatory minimum sentencing laws with

more flexible and individualized guidelines.

3. Make full employment a domestic policy goal. Nearly 70 percent of ex-offenders were unemployed at the time of their arrest and 60 percent were living at or below 50 percent of the poverty line at the time of their arrest.

4. Eliminate private prison companies, which rely on an increasing prison population for its continued survival.

5. Expand prison education programs and provide offenders with incentives to participate in them. Doing so could reduce recidivism by 5 to 20 percent.

6. Expand milestone credits to provide that all prisoners are eligible to earn up to six weeks of early-release credits each year.

7. Provide incentives for employers to hire ex-convicts.

8. Eliminate "zero tolerance" policies that lead to expulsions that disproportionately affect youth of color, who then have a higher likelihood of going to prison.

9. Support community-policing efforts, which could dramatically reduce the crime rate.

—Kris Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

## JPay Looks to Expand Clientele by Providing MP3 Players to Inmates

By Kris Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

An electronic money transfer company is looking to become the Apple of the prison industrial complex, with the introduction of an MP3 player for inmates.

JPay, a private company that handles money transfers, electronic communications and video visitation for inmates, recently expanded its service to offer a tamper-proof MP3 player — called a JPay player.

The prison does not pay for the service; rather, JPay installs kiosks in common areas of a prison, from which inmates can browse a library of more than 10 million songs. They can purchase a player for \$40.

### CALIFORNIA

The company has yet to offer its JPay player to California prisoners, but it is not for lack of interest.

San Quentin inmate Boston Woodard said he thinks the Cal-

ifornia Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should allow the company inside its institutions.

"The player doesn't have any means of accessing the internet, so I think the administration should consider them," he said.

Woodard said he would not pay the price the company is asking — \$1.99 per song — but he thinks there would be willing customers if downloads are affordable.

Another San Quentin prisoner, Sam Hearnes, believes the price is reasonable. "Considering the price per song recorded on CD is double that, I would definitely use the service," he said.

### TABLETS

JPay also has plans to offer a mini tablet — similar to a Kindle reader, but without wireless capabilities — in prisons by the end of the year.

"It's got an e-mail application, music, e-books; it's got anything

you can imagine," said Ryan Shapiro, founder and chief executive officer of JPay. "Think about education, think about games. It's endless where we could go. We think it's as big, if not bigger, than the money-transfer business."

Recently, a group of Bay Area residents contacted the San Quentin administration about the possibility of donating Kindles for prisoner education. The administration is considering the request.

# Watchdog Group Blasts Federal Practice

HOUSING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN PRIVATE PRISONS PRESENTS A HOST OF PROBLEMS

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government has come under fire for its use of private prisons to house people who enter the U.S. illegally, according to Colorlines. Detainees have filed various complaints, including neglect, abuse, overcrowding, riots, unsanitary conditions, insufficient food and interference with access to attorneys.

Recently, advocates tried to intervene on any further use

of private prisons to detain or incarcerate non-citizens of the U.S. A group of human rights supporters went on Capitol Hill to halt a nearly \$26 million expansion of privately managed prisons proposed in the 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. But according to Colorlines, the government plans to move forward.

The federal Board of Prisons plans to add about 1,500 inmates a year during the next eight years. The increase would bring the number of detainees housed

in private facilities to 36,000 by the year 2020.

*“... about half of federal prisoners are now Latinos.”*

Prosecutors filed criminal charges against persons arrested for illegal reentry after previously being deported, the article states, which significantly increases the prison population.

Illegal reentering was the most recorded charge brought by federal prosecutors during the first half of fiscal year 2011, which has resulted in big business for private prisons, according to data released by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

These practices add to the number of federal prisoners, and significantly change incarceration demographics, the article reports. “These policies have led to the point where about half of federal prisoners are now Latin-

nos,” said Bob Libal, author of Operation Streamline Cost and Consequences. “We are clogging the justice system with this astounding increase in unnecessary prosecutions of people who merely sought to reunite with their families,” Libal wrote.

There are more than 24,000 illegal immigrant inmates in 13 federal prisons, according to the report. All these detentions come with a significant price tag: Since 2005, the government has spent \$5.5 billion incarcerating undocumented immigrants.

## Literary Tradition Maintained by Prison Writing Group

By Boston Woodard  
Contributing Writer

American prison writers have been around since there have been prisons in America. During the 18th century, debtors were sentenced to ‘debtor’s prisons’ when they failed to pay their creditors.

These early American prisoners — an eclectic group of politicians, merchants, educators, lawyers and landowners — wrote about their personal plights and issues of the day. There was no shortage of literary flow from behind prison walls.

Today, San Quentin hosts a program to promote the prison writer and encourage the art of creative writing: The Brothers In Pen Creative Writing Group, instructed by Zoe Mullery.

On October 13, Brothers in Pen showcased a reading of 17

stories written by students. Approximately 25 outside guests were invited by Mullery to witness this annual reading.

“While we didn’t have nearly as many guests this year as we would have liked, all in attendance were—as usual—blown away by the quality of the reading and by the friendliness and intelligence of the students,” said Mullery.

Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett emceed the event. Padgett’s zeal for the creative writing group made for an upbeat presentation as the students took to the podium to read their stories to the guests who hung on their every word.

“I’m in prison and I’ve heard some amazing stories about anger, loss, hate, redemption, forgiveness and love,” said Padgett. “The significance is that we learn to write and communicate



Photo By Peter Merts

The Brothers In Pen creative writing group showcase their work at the reading

in a place that does not promote meaningful forms of communication.”

There were “stories from their past, from imagined pasts, from the future, from fantastical worlds,” said Elaine W. who attended a previous reading. “Stories that make us laugh a little. Made us cry. Such eloquence, stories of loss, of themselves, of their families. Pain, regret, struggle, self-knowledge.” Her observations of the writers’ work mirror the amalgam of thoughts and comments shared by the visitors during and after the reading.

“Thank you for a really intense and important event. I’m still unpacking it,” said one guest. “I’m still thinking about those stories. There are a lot of people I wish could have been there,” said another.

A program intermission allowed students and guests to discuss the significance of mind and opportunity coming together via the Brothers In Pen group.

“Writing is a thing that brings you freedom...it also allows [students] to discover their potential in being creative,” said writer Arnulfo Garcia.

One visitor was so attentive and enthralled during the readings, she gave each student brief praise and a personal critique on their stories. The students were extremely grateful for her comments.

“My goal for myself is to be a midwife of stories. A story is a difficult thing to define. But there are some things we know. It has a shape, a feeling, and a direction,” said Mullery, who wants her students to “be engaged in what stories are, be

aware of how each of us live in and shape and are shaped by stories—the stories we have lived and observed, and the ones we create.”

Giving prisoners a voice and an outlet for creative self-expression has the potential to make an enormous difference in their attitudes. As Mary Belle Harris, who ran a women’s prison in West Virginia, said in 1927, “Unless we have built within them a wall of self-respect, moral integrity, and a desire to be an asset to the community instead of a menace, we have not protected society—which is ourselves.” Her words ring as loud today as they did 85 years ago.

Interested readers can learn more about Brothers in Pen at brothersinpen.wordpress.com, and buy collections of their short stories at lulu.com.



Photo By Peter Merts

Watani Stiner captures the attention of the audience

## Questionable Stop and Frisk Tactics Adopted by Cities Across the Nation

By Jason McGinnis  
Contributing writer

Police are using a strategy known as “stop and frisk” to reduce crime in New York City and other major metropolitan areas around the nation. The policy involves police officers stopping and patting down people they consider suspicious in an effort to preemptively stop crime, reports the New York Times.

Critics of this practice say the majority of the stops do not re-

sult in the discovery of illegal possessions or evidence of any wrongdoing. New York City police strongly defend this tactic as an effective way to bring down crime and get illegal guns off the streets, according to the Times.

In the first quarter of 2012, there were 203,500 street stops, up from 183,326 in the same quarter last year, the Times reports. Of those stopped and frisked, 85 percent were black or Hispanic

men, which has caught the attention of civil rights groups, city council members and minority community leaders.

In 2011, New York City police stopped 46,784 women and frisked nearly 16,000, according to a New York Times analysis of police records. Guns were found in 59 frisks — about one third of one percent of the time.

Civil rights leaders have argued that the low gun-recovery rates strongly indicate that

the stop and frisk encounters are unjustified.

A federal judge has said the city’s records indicate that many of these stops did not meet constitutional standards for searches. Police officers are not allowed to search the pockets of citizens based on a hunch or job performance quota; however, they may pat someone down if there is a reason to believe that the person is carrying an illegal weapon.

Several groups, including the NAACP, labor unions, religious groups and several ethnic and cultural organizations, continue to organize protests and marches to rally against the practice of stop and frisk.

One particular demonstration in June 2012 was led by Rev. Al Sharpton and other civil rights leaders. More than 299 organizations endorsed the silent march, which was noted for its size and diversity.

## SPORTS

# Wild Cats Win The Crown

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Wild Cats basketball team won the first ever Intramural League basketball championship in a three-game series over the San Quentin Kings.

After getting hammered in the first game, the Wild Cats rebounded to win back to back comeback games on game winning shots. With seconds left in game two, Richard "Mujahid" Munns buried a three pointer to win the game. In game three, Aubra McNeely drained a left corner three pointer with 19 seconds left in the game, which proved to be the game winning shot.

"We stepped up when nobody thought we were going to win," said guard Asa Punefu. "We came back from a large deficit to win the game at the end."

Trailing big in the second half of game three, Munns realized that he had to make an unpopular decision to motivate his teammates. "I knew something drastic needed to happen in order to overcome a 21 point deficit, so I took the big tech to get the attention of my teammates," he commented. "We came together and they never gave up. It was really sweet victory as an underdog."

"I felt like in an elimination game my attitude and my teammate's attitude was that we re-

fused to lose. The pride and the heart of our team would not let us be eliminated," said Daniel Wright, the leading scorer during the regular season for the Wild Cats.

The Wild Cats finished the regular season with a 7-7 record and was an underdog in every game. Coach Vihn Nyugen expressed his confidence in his team going into the playoffs. He said, "I felt good about our chances. I noticed during the season we had talent, it was just a matter of can they play as a team. I maintained confidence after the loss to the Kings. We just needed to communicate. We just needed to communicate. We weren't playing as a team. We came back to win playing as a team."



The Wild Cats hanging out with Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green

## San Quentin Hosts 9th Annual Marathon

By Ron Koehler  
Journalism Guild Writer

Blaring reggae music egged on 25 runners around the Lower Yard of San Quentin Prison for its ninth annual marathon. The prison's 1,000 Mile Club sponsored the event.

"All different races come together for the common goal of running the marathon, 26.2 miles," said Stephen Pascascio, the club's public relations coordinator.

Pascascio said the runners trained all year long for the event.

Two green lines painted around the lower yard guided the runners around the prison yard.

"Respect is shown by stepping out of the way," said Pascascio, referring to the courtesy those prisoners walking the lower yard track showed the runners.

Louis Hunter won the marathon with a time of 4:18:37. Glenn Mason followed him with a time of 4:19:45. Third place went to Andre Battle with a time of 4:20:28.

Marathon participants included prisoners Ricky Dotson, Andrew Gazzeny, Alton McSween, Derrick Smith, Larry Ford, Paul Madeira, Morelli Abdel Kader, Bill Pillars, Alberto Mendez, Clifton Williams, Dee Whitaker, Jerry Gearin, Tristan Jones, Malcolm Williams, Dom Brassey, Tone Evans, Lorenzo Hopson, and Ralph Ligons.

"I want to include all generations," said Dominique Brasse, a San Quentin teacher with Patton University. She ran the first 13 miles with the prisoners.

Dominique acknowledged the importance of the lap counters for their encouraging words to the runners and the volunteers who supplied water to the runners.

Volunteer lap counters and race supporters included Frank Ruona, Diana Fitzpatrick, Kevin Rumon, Evert Spells, Steve, Pascascio, Angel Gutierrez, Eddie Herena, Dennis Barnes, Jill Friedman, Cory McNeil, Malcolm Jones, and Ruben Ramirez.

KQED reporter Judy Campbell also attended the event.



The marathon runners pose for a group photo after the event

Official Photo



Photo by Ernest Woods

Giants' player Marcus Crumb on deck and ready to bat

## S.Q. Giants Cut Down

Coach Macari of the Lumberjacks baseball team smashed a grand slam home run in the fourth inning, leading the visitors to a 6-2 victory over the San Quentin Giants.

The game was tied 2-2 going into the top of the fourth inning. The Lumberjacks drew a walk and crushed singles up the middle and to center field to load the bases. That's when Macari smashed a fastball over the right-center field fence.

"I kept extra focus on staying back," Macari said. "I got an outside fastball, and I hit it."

The Giants' only offense came in the third inning. They rallied as Marcus Crumb got an infield hit and stole second, and Dwight Kennedy crushed a RBI single to center field. Dave Baker singled Kennedy home to tie the game, 2-2.

"I had a great experience, and we will be coming back," said Macari, who played college baseball at the College of Marin and Missouri Valley College.

Demetrius Adam of the Lumberjacks said, "I want to say thanks, and we're grateful," said Adam.

-Gary Scott

## Cardinals Serve San Quentin

By San Quentin News Staff

time and max fun," said Schuhmacher.

The Stanford Cardinals overwhelmed San Quentin's Inside Tennis Team in every facet of the game.

Nolan Paige and Matt Kandath won their match with players of the San Quentin team 4-1. "It was a hard-fought battle," said freshman Paige, from Fairfield, Connecticut.

Paige seemed surprised by the hospitality of the San Quentin players. "I did not know what to expect," said Paige, "Everybody seems so nice."

San Quentin's doubles teams seemed overmatched by Stanford's in every game. The day didn't become competitive until the teams mixed up, with two San Quentin players each matched with a member from Stanford. Chris Schuhmacher from the Inside Tennis Team played with Kandath and Orlando 'Duck' Harris played with Paige from Stanford.

Harris and Paige jumped out to a 3-0 lead when Schuhmacher and Kandath dug in and fought back to a 3-3 tie.

In the final play, Schuhmacher let his serve rip. Paige sent back a deep return. Schuhmacher tried to send a lob over Orlando who lived up to his nickname and "ducked" as Nolan smashed a game winner, giving them the 4-3 set. "We shared max court

The weather is definitely better here. It's going to be tough to leave," said Morrissey.

Stanford Freshman Anthony Tsodikov, Junior Jamin Ball, Juniors Fawaz Hourani and Walker Kehrer also played against the San Quentin team.

Paige described his team's approach to the upcoming season. "Every year the goal is to win a championship. We have to work hard in practice and take it day to day."

"It's cool to share the game of tennis with top college athletes. Only in a place like San Quentin can something like this be possible," said Schuhmacher. "When we're out there on the tennis court, it's almost like we're not in prison."

-Vihn Nyugen  
contributed to this story

# Report: Smart Crime Policies Possible

LOWER PRISON POPULATIONS SAID ATTAINABLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING PUBLIC SAFETY

By San Quentin News Staff

It is time for lawmakers to use "reason, rather than politics and emotion, to guide criminal justice policymaking," according to a report by American Civil Liberties Union.

Longer sentences and mandatory minimums, fueled in part by the war on drugs, have led to an explosion in prison-building over the last 40 years. In 2009, nearly 1.7 million people were arrested in the U.S. for non-violent drug charges — almost half were for marijuana possession. Individuals imprisoned for drug offenses make up 25 percent of the U.S. prison population, the report finds.

Staffing and maintaining these prisons have contributed to huge budgetary deficits in many states, the report finds.

These financial woes have led many political leaders to adopt smart-on-crime strategies that use evidence-based programs — such as diverting people charged with low-level drug offenses to treatment instead of incarceration. In addition, smart-on-crime policies do not automatically send people to prison who violate the technical terms of their probation and parole, according to the report.

The 2011 study is titled *Smart Reform is Possible: States Reducing Incarceration Rates and Costs While Protecting Communities*. It details how several states with long histories of instituting tough-on-crime policies have led to a 700 percent increase in the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. over the last four decades.

New York and Texas are pointed out in the report as examples of how to depopulate prisons while keeping crime rates low.

Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Ohio and Kentucky obtained bipartisan support for prison reform, while Louisiana, Maryland and Indiana have shown they are willing to move in the same direction, according to the report.

## "We have to look at what works"

California is in the first year of its plan to reduce prison overcrowding and spending, called realignment. Realignment shifts some prisoners from doing time in the state prison system to county jails, and diverts most people from state parole to county probation. Officials

say keeping offenders close to home would keep them better connected with their families and communities.

At a recent conference in Sacramento, sponsored by Capitol Weekly, panelists recommended additional ways for California to be smart-on-crime.

"We need to put money into the community in jobs, housing and substance abuse treatment. If (an inmate) does not have a job or home in 30 days (upon being released from prison), there is an 88 percent chance they will go back to prison," said Jim Gomez, president and CEO of California Association of Health Facilities.

Author Sasha Abramsky, whose latest work is *American Furies: Crime, Punishment and Vengeance in the Age of Mass Imprisonment*, concurred. "We

need proper drug treatment and proper education. We have to look at what works. There is nothing soft about this. There has to be a balance of punishment and rehabilitation. We also need to fix the juvenile system. We may not be able to fix the family, but maybe we can fix the child."

The ACLU report identifies some of the disturbing trends that might undercut the potential for long-term success of reforms. For example, it says too many states are rejecting reforms that require short-term investment of resources. Over the long-term, these programs will be "cost-effective for states, keep families and communities intact, and allow otherwise incarcerated individuals to contribute to society and the economy," the report states.

## Investing Towards a Lower Cost of Crime and Crime Rate

By Samuel Hearnes  
Journalism Guild Writer

Investing in police forces would lower the crime rate and cost of crime, according to a study conducted by the Center on Quality Policing of the RAND Infrastructure, Safety, and Environment Center.

The six jurisdictions named in the study are Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and Miami-Dade County. The crime cost exceeded \$1 billion annually in each county. Homicide generates the most expense, costing more than \$8 million per case, the study reported. Victims bear 77 percent of tangible violent crime-cost,

with taxpayers paying 14 percent, and employers covering the remaining 8 percent.

There are three primary methods used to estimate the cost of crime.

The first method, the accounting-based method, measures the cost of crime by attempting to identify the cost paid by individuals and society as a whole. These costs include installing lighting or other defense products, property loss, medical cost for injuries, investigations, prosecutions, and incarceration.

However, the Accounting method is deficient because it fails to account for intangible cost, such as the psychological effects of victimization. Failing

to account for intangible cost leads to the underestimation of crime cost.

The second method, Contingent Valuation, is a survey-based strategy that elicits information about citizens' willingness to pay for hypothetical programs that reduce crime.

Contingent Valuation, unlike the Accounting method, identifies the intangible cost of crime.

The Hedonic Valuation examines the relationships between neighborhood crimes and the housing prices within those neighborhoods to measure the value of the neighborhood. However, citing numerous methodological problems, the RAND study excluded all research re-

sults employing Hedonic Valuation.

There are four isolated factors used to identify the effects of increased police presence on crime rates and the subsequent cost of crime.

The first factor, hiring programs, increases police staff through federal initiatives and funding. The second factor, election cycles, found that police forces were significantly increased during state and local elections. The third factor, reallocation, is the increase of police presence due to circumstances such as terrorist threats. The final factor is the timing of police personnel changes. Personnel changes are a typical response to

crime rates. When crime rates demonstrate a need for more police presence, departments respond by training new officers.

Over an 11-year period, spanning 2,074 U.S. cities, studies showed that a one percent increase in police staffing led to a decrease in violent crimes by one percent. Further, a 10 percent increase in police staffing generated a reduction of up to five percent, the RAND study said.

However, increased staffing does not impact rape or larceny rates, the study notes. Additionally, some police activities, such as excessive use of force or racial profiling, generate social costs, the study said.

## Nancy Mullane Tells San Quentin Inmates About Her New Book

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin's Catholic Chapel was filled with hope for about 60 prisoners when independent reporter Nancy Mullane spoke to them about how newly released lifers are having positive effects on their home communities.

Her book, "Life after Murder," chronicles the journeys of five convicted murderers before, during and after their release from prison.

Mullane followed the inmates from the time the California parole board found them suitable for release, to the 150-day period that the governor has to approve or reverse the board's decision, to their actual release

and adjustment to freedom after decades behind bars.

"Why don't we know about these people?" Mullane asked the San Quentin group. "Why don't we know what they've become? People on the outside want to know, but they don't know who to ask. That's what I see myself as the person who gathers the information about you and gives it to the public."

The audience for Mullane's talk was an inmate activity group named Hope For Strikers.

In 2010, San Quentin inmates created Hope For Strikers for inmates sentenced under California's Three Strike Law.

The group meets weekly to address lifestyle addictions that led to criminal behaviors and to

pursue meaningful methods of mitigating those behaviors.

Hope For Strikers developed a 12-step recovery process that examines the root causes of recidivism. Its curriculum teaches individuals how to identify triggers to impulsive reactions, and provides them with coping techniques to minimize destructive thinking.

## "Why don't we know about these people?"

One of Mullane's observations was that self-improvement programs helped the men in her book readjust to society, and

now the men share those concepts with juvenile offenders.

"The youth counselors were able to see positive changes in the juveniles from the impact the men had on them," Mullane said. "The counselors were amazed."

Mullane's message encouraged San Quentin inmates to continue with self-improvement programs, said Julius "Kymy" Humphreys, a member of Hope For Strikers.

"These programs give us the opportunity to show the public that we have changed, and we are no longer dangerous," Humphreys said.

According to Mullane, the negative impression of prisoners was developed by the public

through a process called "othering." Othering occurs when people in a society dehumanize other groups of people by not seeing and understanding the groups' position in life, she said.

"I have hope that, as a reporter, I can stop the public from othering you by talking and writing about your development and contributions to the community."

Mullane has a new FM radio show on KALW 91.7 called "Life of the Law," in which she discusses prisoners' access to courts to challenge their convictions. Her latest project tracks the lives of three men who benefit from the change in the state's Three Strike's Law.

## Court Rules the Name 'New Afrikan' is Unrelated to Prison Gangs

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Supreme Court has ruled that a prison inmate can call himself a "New

Afrikan Nationalist Revolutionary Man" without being treated like a dangerous gang member.

Professor James Campbell explained in a declaration filed

in the 1st District Court of Appeal on behalf of inmate James Crawford that the phrase "New Afrikan" was a self-determination movement unrelated to a prison gang.

A prison guard at Pelican Bay State Prison intercepted a letter with information about this new political movement from an inmate while he was in solitary confinement. Prison officials

referred to the "New Afrikan National Revolutionary Man" as Black Guerilla Family coded messages, used to promote gang activities. Crawford said his "message was entirely political."

# San Quentin Offers Youth Mentorship

Troubled children visit San Quentin SQUIRES group in hopes of changing their lifestyles

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

It was lunchtime in one of San Quentin's historic chow halls, the site of violent uprisings in years past. One visiting guest was Christian Hernandez, a troubled youngster from Santa Cruz. He did not like what he saw and vowed that he would never go to prison.

"I learned how horrible it is and how horrible the lunches are," Hernandez said. "What scared me the most was when that guy was talking about murdering someone and going to Death Row, and seeing guys being escorted by the guards wasn't a good feeling."

The young visitor to San Quentin was a product of a new approach toward dealing with at-risk youth.

In the 1960s and '70s, several state prisons tried the "Scared Straight" method in trying to reach youth who were headed for a life of crime, but "Scared Straight" was halted due to the controversy it generated after national news exposure. The up-front, in-your-face approach of confronting youth fell from favor. Instead, communication, not intimidation, became the

preferred way to handle disruptive youngsters.

The communication approach is what brought young Hernandez to San Quentin. He came under the auspices of the Terrence Kelly Youth Foundation (TKYF28.ORG).

One of the groups using the new approach toward prevention of juvenile crime in America is the San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources, Experiences and Studies, better known as SQUIRES.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of SQUIRES is to communicate with troubled teens who have engaged in juvenile delinquent conduct and self-destructive activities. The prisoner/mentors of SQUIRES require new members to go through a training and screening process before admitting them to the group.

The youth referred to participate in the SQUIRES workshop are involved with outside groups and organizations like the TKYF that are responsible for youth offenders.

Landrin Kelly, CEO and founder of TKYF, said he hopes to leave an indelible mark of the lives of young people. Kelly was

inspired by the memory of his son, Terrance, who was shot to death two days before he was to attend the University of Oregon on a scholarship.

For the last eight years, TKYF has provided services to youth through the High Achievers After-School program. The program includes culinary arts, computer lab, violence prevention, along with assistance in self-expression and voice development.

Twenty-two youths from the TKYF and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mentors Foundation (www.21stCenturyMentors.org) participated in a SQUIRES workshop on Oct. 20.

One of their escorts was Robert Turner, executive director of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mentors Foundation. He has been assisting kids for more than 30 years. For the past 15 years, Turner has been bringing kids to the SQUIRES workshops.

"I feel there's a need to help these kids in the community, and even though there are a lot of programs, there's never enough to address all the troubled kids," said Lona Kelly, Terrance's aunt. "We have to try, and their foundation tries to get kids before they go all the way wrong. The

solution isn't to bring in more police because they have been trying that for years. What we need is more mentors."

Alex Bennett, who participated in the October workshop, has never been locked up but asserts that his visit to San Quentin helped him focus on turning his life around.

"These mentors are really good. They have made a difference for my son, and I want to say thank you to all the mentors," said Christie Bennett, Alex's mother. "They are effective in their communication with the boys. It takes courage to open up their lives to these boys."

## CELLS

During the workshop, the youths were placed in cells, and the mentors spoke to them from outside the bars to give them an impression of prison life and what it's like to spend long amounts of time, even life, in a room no bigger than a small bedroom closet.

"I felt trapped," said Diego Cardona, 17. "When I get home, I'm going to obey my parents and the law."

Rodrick Parker, 12, said, "I feel trapped and I can't get out. I'm going to do good things to

stay out of trouble. I don't want to live like this. This is ugly."

Kyree Hall, 12, commented, "This is horribly dirty and scary. It really bothers me that I'm in a cell. This will help me be a better person—especially to my parents."

Andrew Phan added, "I learned how people's lives can be changed and they start losing their family after they are locked up. The mentors from this program are giving us some really good advice and it is working."

Also attending the workshop were Joe Hernandez, a Santa Cruz police officer, and Henry Michel, assistant principal at Santa Cruz High School. Both work in community youth programs. Bob Michels, a professor at Santa Clara University, has been visiting San Quentin for 20 years, working with youths participating in SQUIRES. Michels brought in 15 graduate students who will also be working with at-risk kids.

Thanks to staff support and volunteers, SQUIRES conducts the best youth diversion program in the country, said Lt. Rudy Luna, chief sponsor of the group.

*-Boston Woodard contributed to this story*

torney General Jon Bruning for the wrongful conviction.

**10. CLEVELAND** — A man who spent 25 years on Death Row was freed after a judge dismissed the murder charges against him, reports The Associated Press. Michael Keenan, 62, was convicted in the 1988 killing of a man found dead in a brook in a Cleveland park. The judge ruled that the prosecution withheld evidence that could have benefited the defense.

**11. LOS ANGELES** — Movie star Tim Robbins is giving acting lessons to prisoners doing time at California Rehabilitation Center, Norco. The Actors' Gang, a theatre company, set up the classes. "They're asked to do things they've never been asked to do in their life — open up emotionally, and put on make-up and costumes, and pretend to be people. It's weird stuff," Robbins told CBS TV in Los Angeles.

**12. SACRAMENTO** — A doctor at California Medical Facility made more than \$410,000 in 2011. A nurse at High Desert State Prison made nearly \$236,000. A pharmacist at Corcoran State Prison was paid more than \$196,000. Of the top 100 highest-paid state employees outside the University of California system, in 2011, 44 worked for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, according to an Associated Press analysis of state payroll data. They were paid an average of nearly \$379,000. The top pay went to a Salinas Valley State Prison psychiatrist at \$803,271.

## News Briefs



**5. MACON, Ga.** — The FBI is investigating allegations of prisoners abused by guards at Macon State Prison. In the past 16 months, two guards have pled guilty to federal civil rights and conspiracy charges related to the beating of prisoners, the Huffington Post reports.

from Riker's Island. Goldman Sachs will only make money if the program reduces recidivism.

**7. TEXAS** — John Soules Food, Inc. mislabeled thousands of pounds of "meat trimmings" intended for animals and sold it to an East Texas jail, reports The Huffington Post. An investigation showed prisoners ate the pet food. The company has agreed to terms that will pay \$392,000 to the federal government to cover the cost of the three-year investigation.

**8. KERN COUNTY** — Since realignment went into

effect, the numbers for burglary, larceny and auto thefts are going up, reports the South County Reporter. Law enforcement officials say they are "wondering if it's a direct result of prison realignment," the report states.

**9. LINCOLN, Neb.** — A man convicted of first-degree murder in 1956 for killing his wife was freed after another man on Death Row confessed. Darrel Parker spent 14 years in prison. He was paroled in 1970, and received a full pardon in 1991. Parker, now 80, has been offered \$500,000 and an apology by State At-

**4. VACAVILLE** — Solano County officials say 95 felons were sent to state prison in the third quarter of last year, reports the Vacaville Reporter. Since realignment began one year ago, there has been a 51 percent reduction in new admissions to state prison. The county only sent 70 new felons to state prison in the past year.

**6. NEW YORK** — A new program that takes private money to improve social outcomes has been put into place by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, reports The Huffington Post. Global investment bank Goldman Sachs will invest \$10 million in a program to assist adolescent prisoners released

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Snippets

Grapefruit will taste a little sweeter if you add a pinch of salt before eating it. The salt reduces the acidity of the fruit, giving it a sweet taste.

Iced tea makes up 80% of all the tea sold in the United States.

Best when stored at temperatures above 55° F, tomatoes should never be refrigerated because the cold causes them to lose their flavor and nutritional value.

Looking to increase sales, fruit was first added to commercial yogurt by the Dannon Yogurt company.

Eating more today than a few decades ago, Americans consume about 20% more calories than they once did. They consume about 63% more fats and oils, 43% more grains and 19% more sugar than they did only one generation ago.

The giant clam, *tridacna gigas*, can produce up to 100 gallons of chowder. It can weigh over 500 pounds and grow to over four feet in length.

Sumerian herdsmen around 4,000 years ago stored their daily milk rations in the dried stomachs of slaughtered calves. It is believed that cheese first developed from this process, as natural enzymes remaining in the stomach would curdle the milk, producing cheese.



### Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**CHANGE YOUR BRAIN, CHANGE YOUR LIFE** (By DANIEL G. AMEN) *Assessment Guide to diagnosis and treatment options for mental health issues for the average reader.*



**OBSESSIVE LOVE** (By Susan Forward) *Entertaining case studies illustrating the causes, symptoms, and solutions for this common malady.*



**OPEN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY** (By Andre Agassi) *Easy reading on the life, loves, and career of this elite tennis player.*

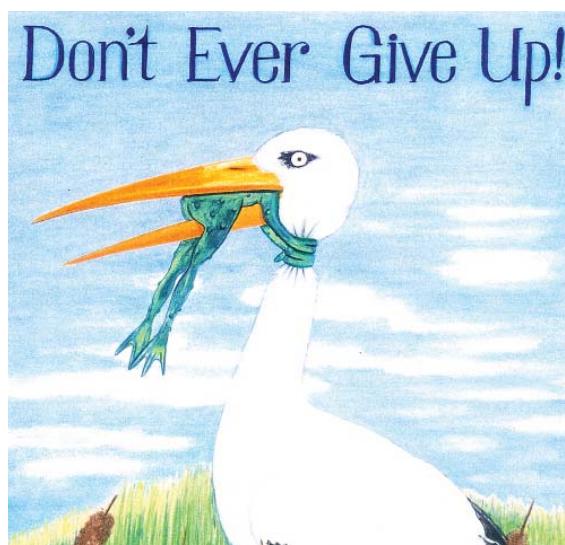


**THE CASES THAT HAUNT US** (By John Dennis) *Summaries of infamous serial murder cases from Jack the Ripper to the Zodiac.*



**NAUSEA** (By Jean-Paul Sarte) *Overrated "classic" where disjointed diary entries illustrate a French writer sickened by over introspecting his own life.*

**RATINGS:**  
Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:  
Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Artwork of "V", an inmate at CMC

### Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!



If Mamma were to bake a pie that was round, how many different pieces of pie can she make by dissecting the pie with only five cuts. Mamma cannot move any of the pieces as she is cutting the pie and the pieces do not need to be the same size.

**The answer to last month's puzzle is: \$31.63**

Congratulations to: Bernie Castro and Binh Vo for winning last month's puzzle.

Congratulations to: Chris Schuhmacher, Mike Tyler, for correctly answering last month's puzzle.

The two winners were picked for a hat containing all the winning answers.

#### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

### Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

		1						
	4					3	7	2
6		3	8	5				
1			5			2		
	6	8					3	
					9	8		7
5				1	4			3
3		2					6	
						5		

#### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

8	1	6	5	9	3	2	4	7
5	7	4	6	2	1	3	8	9
2	9	3	8	7	4	5	1	6
9	4	2	1	6	5	8	7	3
6	3	7	9	8	2	1	5	4
1	5	8	4	3	7	9	6	2
3	2	1	7	4	8	6	9	5
4	8	9	3	5	6	7	2	1
7	6	5	2	1	9	4	3	8



Cartoon by Orlando Smith

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

As the 2012 Thanksgiving holiday approached, the hearts of many people in the San Quentin community flooded with thankfulness. "Asked On The Line" conducted 31 random informal interviews with 14 men in blue, a program volunteer, and 16 teachers of the Prison University Project and asked two questions: Who is the one person or group of people you are most thankful for having in your life? What is the one thing, tangible or not, that you are most grateful for having?

For the men in blue, the most popular answer for the first question was "parents." Shon Rufin was thankful for having the

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his life, Michael Lewis was thankful for his sisters, Pedro Espinal was thankful for his "amiga," Robert Morales was thankful for the "support group of friends," and Ronald Davenport was thankful for having Jesus Christ in his life.

Joe Spinelli, a volunteer tutor with Free to Succeed, was thankful for his beloved wife.

The PUP teachers were thankful for their families and partners. Dan Martell was thankful for his grandchild, Kara Urion was thankful for both her family and adopted family and Sean Alexander was thankful for having his mom and his girlfriend in his life.

As to the second question, the most popular answer for

mainliners was "life." The rest were thankful for a variety of things. Eric Womack was thankful for music, Robert Morales was thankful for his sanity, Alex Ortega and Tom Saevang were thankful for their health, and John Neblett was grateful for his talent.

The top three replies from PUP teachers were health, education, and life. Elizabeth Ferrell was grateful for having love in her life and Chas Gillespie was grateful for nature. Kara Urion was grateful for her "ability to try again" and Oliver Kroll was grateful for Dorothy, his 6-month-old Bernese Mountain dog. Maria Joseph was grateful for having her goats and her farm.

## Christmas Toy Program Returns

### VETERAN'S GROUP SET TO DISTRIBUTE TOYS TO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

By Chris Schuhmacher  
VVGSQ Chairman

The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin is gearing up to bring a touch of Christmas to San Quentin with their 24<sup>th</sup> annual Toy Program.

Members of the VVGSQ will once again show off their elf ears as they join forces with members of the inside S.Q. community to deck the halls of the mainline and H-unit visiting rooms with Christmas trees, tinsel, and festive yuletide decorations.

The VVGSQ has already begun to prepare to receive donations of toys and stuffed animals from outside organizations like Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army. These toys will then be

passed out to inmates' children from infant to age 14, who come to visit Dec. 15, 16, 22 and 23.

Toy program co-squad leader Barry Spillman said, "I do it because it's my way of giving back to the community...of being part of Christmas again."

***"There's no better feeling than to see genuine happiness on children's faces"***

George Caffale, another co-squad leader and long-standing member of the group, comment-

ed, "During my time in the military, from '76 to '84, I was deployed out of country and know what it feels like to be away from home and miss the holidays. There's no better feeling than to see genuine happiness on children's faces as they visit with their fathers for Christmas and go home with a bag full of toys."

Inmates and ILTAG organizations can donate by filling out Trust Withdrawals made payable to VVGSQ ILTAG account SQP # 634, and send them directly to the Trust Account Office. Outside donors of toys, stuffed animals, or monetary contributions, can contact Lt. K. Evans at San Quentin State Prison. (415) 454-1460 ext. 5205.

## Author Provides Unique Perspective

### BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

One would not expect to read fiction and learn about American history, math, early childhood development, and ethics. However, Christopher Paul Curtis provides these teaching tools through his novels so that parents and schoolteachers may better connect with youngsters.

Curtis uses his storytelling to give adults an inkling of how children think, and to subtly place bits of advice sprinkled through his stories for children to use in dealing with the adult world.

*Elijah of Buxton*, and *Bud, Not Buddy* do these things sharply and in such a fashion that the generational gap between the novels' characters serve as guideposts for both young and old.

*Elijah of Buxton* even provides readers with "Literature Circle Questions with Activities," while the "Afterward" in *Bud, Not Buddy* puts the story in historical context. Both receive an "A" as a teaching tool for parents and teachers.

*Bud, Not Buddy* is set in Flint, Mich. during the Great Depression.

Times are hard for 10-year-old Bud; however, he has a suitcase of special things. He's the author of his own rules to life, and he knows his father is a famous bandleader. The adventure is Bud's willingness to go through hell and high water in order to find his famous father. What readers learn is that even though the American economy was in shambles, there was a thriving middle-class of African-Americans.

Both novels touch on social issues relevant to the past, present and future of childhood problems in America. Curtis' characters articulate ideas as

preteens would, making it easy to relate to the confused state of mind that a youngster may have under the circumstances of these stories.

*Elijah of Buxton* is a story that every American should read.

Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border.

Elijah is the first person born free in the town. He thinks he should be famous for this; however, his temperamental disposition sheds light on the emotional pressure that being a celebrity can put on a young mind.

*Elijah of Buxton* is a story of responsibility that exposes the hopes and dreams of an oppressed people. Most Americans have read history books that reference the Underground Railroad; however, many do not know the redeeming quality of a place like Buxton and what it represents. Curtis sheds light on that place not well known to most Americans.

## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with 65 cents postage to:

San Quentin News  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month, if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

## San Quentin News

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### Administrative Review

Warden's Office ..... Lt. S. Robinson  
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Senior Adviser ..... John C. Eagan  
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**In collaboration with**  
**students from**  
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## BEHIND THE SCENES

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism



# San Quentin News



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POPULATION 3,991



Warden Kevin R. Chappell with Victim Services groups

## Criminal Victim Services Receive Prisoner Funds

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

San Quentin prisoners have supported five Bay Area crime victims services with a check for \$36,029.14, to be equally divided.

A presentation ceremony was held at San Quentin's Joint Venture facility, where the men are contracted to work for the local company Labcon, which employs about 200 people and provides services internationally to 57 countries.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation established the Joint Venture Program, a rehabilitative endeavor providing opportunities for prisoners to gain valuable work experience and job skills training.

ing, according to a CDCR press release.

The funds are collected under a law requiring prisoners who work for Joint Venture companies to pay 20 percent of net wages to compensate crime victims. The law also requires prisoners to pay taxes, room and board, and family support.

"Anytime men give back to the community it's great," said San Quentin Warden Kevin R. Chappell. "There are only five joint venture programs throughout the state I wish they had these programs in all 33 prisons." He added, "That would be a tremendous impact for the community and the kids they are helping. It also gives the men focus and direction."

*See Joint Venture on Page 4*

## S.Q. College Program Reduces Recidivism

By Tommy Winfrey  
Journalism Guild Writer

The college program at San Quentin Prison dramatically reduces recidivism, according to a new report by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

In the first year of the study, the department found that the 37 prisoners who received their Associate of Arts degrees through the Prison University Project recidivated at a rate of 5.4 percent in the first year after their release. The control group – 33 former San Quentin prisoners of similar age, race, commitment offense, and sentence – had a recidivism rate of 21.2 percent.

The average recidivism rate of level II inmates is 63.2 percent

over a three-year period. Corresponding data is not yet available for PUP students.

The non-profit PUP recruits volunteer teachers from area colleges. The program is accredited by Patten University in Oakland, which awards A.A. degrees to graduates.

The program began in 1994, when prisoners became ineligible for PELL grants, then the primary source of funding for prison college programs.

The report also analyzed substance-abuse programs and post-release community-based aftercare. Neither program significantly reduced recidivism by itself, though the combination resulted in a three-year recidivism rate of 31.3 percent, the study reported.

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

## S.F. District Attorneys Visit San Quentin for Solutions

By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

A group of San Francisco prosecutors working in the recently formed community courts met with San Quentin prisoners, seeking insight into what leads young people into lives of crime and imprisonment.

"I believe that identifying individual kid issues is extremely important," said Charlie Spence, serving a life sentence for a crime committed when he was 15 years old. "You must find out what their home life is like. Are they having a hard time learning in school?"

Spence added, "Personally, I never received the attention a young person should, nor was I paid attention to while in school; no excuses, that's just the way it was. These are facts we should not ignore."

The Nov 30 gathering included 13 employees from San Francisco's District Attorney's Office, and 30 prisoners convicted of various crimes ranging from minor drug possession to murder.

The forum came about after Assistant District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez visited the San Quentin Journalism Guild several months ago. After speaking with members of the San Quentin News staff, Rodriguez said she wanted to bring some of her colleagues into the prison to

discuss ways to help at-risk youth avoid a life of crime by listening to personal stories of men who have been through the system.

Many of the men who attended the forum are involved with various self-help/rehabilitation

*See San Francisco on Page 4*



Photo By Michael Nelson

San Francisco District Attorneys tour San Quentin

## A Rare Press Visit to Death Row

By Jason McGinnis  
Contributing Writer

Since 2007, members of the press have not been allowed access in any of the three Death Row buildings at San Quentin State Prison. However, recently Nancy Mullane was granted permission by then-prisons chief Matthew Cate to visit Death Row.

Mullane, an independent reporter/producer for National Public Radio and KQED-TV, interviewed three inmates in East Block, which houses 537 of the more than 700 men facing execution.

Lt. Sam Robinson, San Quentin's public information officer, said Death Row inmates begin their sentence in the Adjustment Center, where they are classified as either Grade A or Grade B. "Grade A are individuals who are programming and follow our rules, for the most part. Grade B are the individuals who are the

opposite of that, who are non-programmers or gang affiliates or whatever the case may be," says Robinson.

Robinson led Mullane on a tour of East Block, where she was allowed to interview the inmates in their cells, as long as they were willing to talk with her.



Official Photo

Nancy Mullane in S.Q. Library

One such inmate was Walter Cook, who has been on Death Row for 20 years. Cook explained how important family communication is to him:

*See Media on Page 4*

## Governor Brown Appoints New CDCR Chief

By John C. Eagan  
Senior Adviser

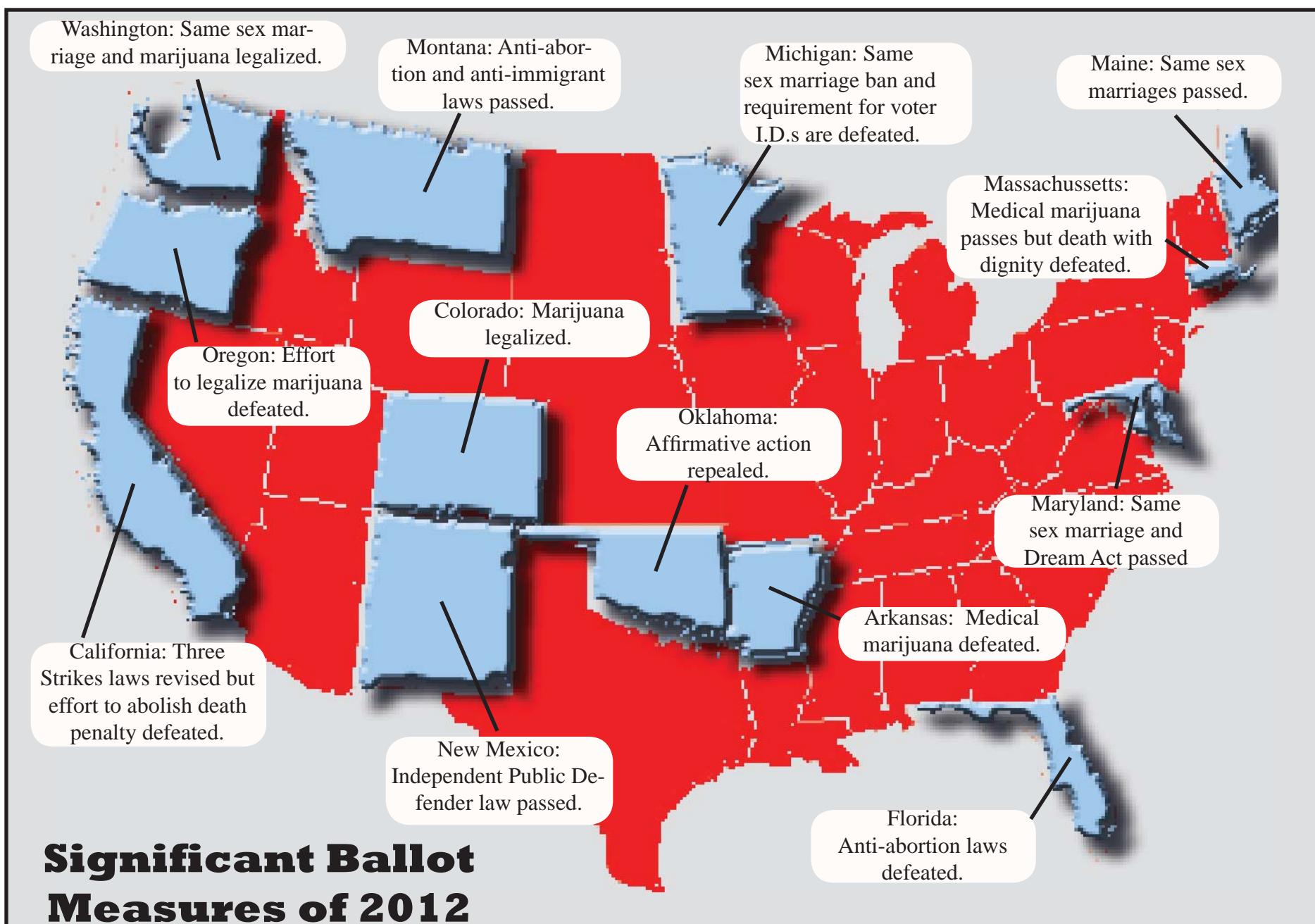
Gov. Jerry Brown has appointed the former head of Pennsylvania's prisons system

to take over as secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

He is Jeffrey Beard, 65, who replaces Matthew Cate, who resigned in November to be

come executive director of the California State Association of Counties.

*See New Chief on Page 4*



## Significant Ballot Measures of 2012

### San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:

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#### Administrative Review

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### We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions. Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

#### Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin  
 Education Dept. / SQ News  
 San Quentin, CA 94964  
 (No street address required)

To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with 65 cents postage to:

San Quentin News  
 1 Main Street  
 San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month, if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

### Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison and jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

### Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

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**Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN**

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

# Unique 12 Step Group Addresses Crime

By Ron Koehler  
Staff Writer

A new 12-step organization aimed at helping prisoners shed their criminal gang activities and mentalities and become productive members of society held its first San Quentin graduation Dec. 7.

The program is sanctioned by the Arch Diocese of Los Angeles.

Meredith Sanchez, one of the founding mothers of CGA attended the ceremony.

About 25 graduates of Criminals and Gangmembers Anonymous celebrated transitioning from "homies," with no individual "me," to realizing their inner, personal identities — identities

based on personal experience, not cloned experience or outside intimidation.

"We learn from our experience that there is no right way to do wrong. Our aim in the CGA program is to turn men with little boy minds into grown men with grown men minds," said Tony, an inmate-facilitator for CGA.

***"We learn from our experiences that there is no right way to do wrong."***

Tony said, "The street sign is still there," referring to that past misidentification. He added,

"Only you can be real with you. This is real transformation without harmful identification."

"We are actually seeing men's minds change in that they are no longer handicapped with the gang mentality," Tony said. "This helps them become better fathers, sons, uncles."

## TRANSFORMATION

This transformation can then continue from one generation to another. "Life presents the individual with a constant tug of war over the elements of personal identity," he added.

The next session of CGA will begin in January 2013.

Contact T. Bolema  
in Education.



Photo by Michael Nelson

Graduate members of CGA display their certificates

## Relevant State Laws That Were Revised in 2011

By San Quentin News Staff

**ALABAMA:** Limited incarceration for probation violators.

**ARKANSAS:** Revised drug statutes; reformed sentencing practices to reduce recidivism; and enacted expungement provision.

**CALIFORNIA:** Authorized county jail detention for certain felony offenders.

**COLORADO:** Codified sentencing standards; established presumption of parole standard; and authorized early termination of community corrections sentences.

**CONNECTICUT:** Expanded risk reduction credits; reduced penalty for certain marijuana offenses; enacted medical response to overdose protection; and restricted incarceration of certain juveniles.

**DELAWARE:** Restructured drug code; authorized use of medical marijuana; opted out of federal food stamp ban for persons with felony drug convictions; and established expungement policy for specified juvenile offenses.

**FLORIDA:** Expanded eligibility for drug court participation and eliminated incarceration as a sentencing option for certain youth.

**GEORGIA:** Permitted sentencing modification for young offenders with certain felony offenses.

**IDAHO:** Amended alternative to incarceration options; and gave authorization for courts to expunge certain convictions.

**ILLINOIS:** Repealed death penalty; codified process of prioritizing alternatives to incarceration into statute.

**INDIANA:** Authorized expungement of certain arrests and low-level offenses.

**KENTUCKY:** Revised penalties for certain drug offenses; established alternative sentencing options for certain offenses.

**LOUISIANA:** Authorized early release for elderly prisoners; enabled sentence reductions through safety valve; and modified parole policies.

**MARYLAND:** Modified parole process for persons sentenced to life in prison; repealed certain parole revocation provisions; and established pilot program to reduce parole revocations.

**MONTANA:** Expanded medical parole eligibility for prisoners.

**NEBRASKA:** Authorized sentence reductions for certain prisoners.

**NEVADA:** Repealed juvenile life without parole for non-homicide offenses.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Limited use of prison as a sentencing option for certain probationers; and established certificate for restoration of civil rights.

**NORTH DAKOTA:** Authorized sentence modification for certain prisoners.

**OHIO:** Established certificates of achievement and employability.

**OKLAHOMA:** Streamlined parole process.

**OREGON:** Expanded expungement policy for persons convicted of certain offenses; restricted mandatory minimums for certain juveniles.

**RHODE ISLAND:** Authorized discretion for certain sentencing options; extended medical parole policy to severely ill.

**SOUTH DAKOTA:** Established partial early discharge from parole.

**TEXAS:** Created new standard to reduce probation revocations; entitled probationers to exit community supervision early; clarified election code for persons; limited misdemeanor citations in school; and expanded determinate probation.

**UTAH:** Restored voting rights for persons with certain prior convictions.

**VERMONT:** Allowed alternative sentencing options for certain prisoners.

**WASHINGTON:** Established a process to eliminate interest for criminal justice debt.

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Increased sentencing reduction terms for program participation.

*Source: The State of Sentencing 2011--Developments in Policy and Practice*

## Experts Favor Rehabilitation Programming Over Incarceration

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

California could reduce the number of people serving lengthy prison sentences by providing more drug-treatment programs before a person receives a third strike, say some independent experts.

The San Francisco Chronicle and California Watch obtained and analyzed state-compiled data on education, psychological and substance-abuse profiles of more than 49,000 California inmates, which revealed that two-thirds of third strike inmates have a high need for substance abuse treatment,

compared with less than half of all inmates.

The information revealed that second- and third-strikers are no more likely than average state prisoners to require cognitive therapy for dealing with criminal impulses.

Some prison reform advocates say the data suggest that greater

investments in drug treatment programs could reduce the likelihood of prisoners re-offending. San Quentin's Hope for Strikers group agrees with this idea, offering repeat offenders a program modeled after the 12-step addiction recovery program.

California prisons are having a difficult time addressing

offenders' rehabilitative needs, including substance abuse, due to severe overcrowding. Corrections officials are developing a plan to expand rehabilitation services and place inmates where such services are available, former CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate told California Watch.

## Modest Organization Works Toward Advancing Rights of the Incarcerated

By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

A small nationwide organization of volunteers and former prisoners is hard at work informing prisoners and the public of imprisoned men's and women's constitutional rights.

Founded in 1972, The Coalition For Prisoners' Rights advocacy organization has been sending its newsletter and resource list to prisoners and non-prisoners upon request since 1976.

The Coalition For Prisoners' Rights say they believe that the police, courts, and penal system are dependent on poverty and racism for continuing institutionalization. They oppose punishment as a tool for positive social change and believe prisons as presently constituted are dangerous to community health, safety, and development.

The Coalition for Prisoners' Rights is supported with in-kind and cash donations plus contributions from church groups and a few grants from progressive

foundations. Stamps, as well as financial contributions, are welcome and necessary for the coalition to continue its service to prisoners throughout America. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to Prison Project of Santa Fe, a 501 (c) (3) organization.

Those interested in receiving the newsletter can send self-addressed stamped envelopes to: Coalition for Prisoners' Rights, P.O. Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM. 87504. The organization will accept up to 12 envelopes at a time.



Official Photo

The CPR humble office in Santa Fe New Mexico

# Media Access With the Prisoners of Death Row

*Continued from Page 1*

out the possibility of parole, he said:

"Really it doesn't matter to me one way or another because my whole purpose is to get all the way out of here, but some people that would give us life without – I don't have nothing against that – but that's not what I'm striving for. But for people – that's their only shot – I feel that they should

get that. That's what all they can get."

Demetrius Howard was another inmate on Death Row who was interviewed by Mullane. A jury convicted Howard for the 1992 murder and attempted murder of a woman in San Bernardino and sentenced him to death. He has been on Death Row now for 17 years. He, like Cook, maintains that he is innocent. When asked about Proposition 34, he said:

"I'm constantly fighting for my freedom. You know, my innocence. I don't feel it's to a lot of individuals benefit, because then they'll be without attorneys and being able to address their issues of being wrongly convicted. So it will be devastating in a lot of ways because many of us have been here over decades – and that in itself is already a life sentence. It's already a life, just being here for many years. So to

go to another situation of a life sentence."

The last inmate Mullane interviewed was Justin Helzer. Helzer was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of five people, including the daughter of guitarist Elvin Bishop. He told Mullane he did not want to talk about his case. While suffering from several medical issues, Helzer is now blind and partially paralyzed from an attempted sui-

cide in which he stuck two five-inch pens into his brain through his eye sockets.

Regarding Proposition 34, Helzer said: "I look forward to it. I think it's the next step of a society that wakes up and realizes this is so unnecessary. It's all politics. And right now the people are buying into the political story. Oh, Death Row – tough on crime. It's not a deterrent. The death penalty is not a deterrent."

## San Francisco District Attorneys Search for Answers

*Continued from Page 1*

groups in search of answers to their own deterrence from a life of crime. Many of the questions from the DAs focused on how the potential for violence might develop into actual violence. Some of the answers included: motives for violent behavior, where the behavior occurs, whether alcohol or weapons were a factor, or whether anyone else was involved beside the offender and the victim.

Some of the San Quentin prisoners talked about circumstances in their personal lives that ultimately lead them to the penitentiary. These personal stories were "extremely helpful for us to hear," said a visiting DA. "This is something we can take back to our community."

Nick Garcia for example, who has been in prison for 35 years, spoke about being beat as a kid at home as well as in school.

"I ran away over and over again," said Garcia. "When I was 12, I ran away to hitchhike to my grandmother's house. When the police picked me up, I would not tell them where I lived or give them my real name. I wanted them to send me to juvenile hall."

Although Garcia says he does not draw on this as an excuse for his crime, it no doubt contributed to behavior that landed him in prison for life.

There are "evidence-based" programs behind the walls of San Quentin that operate as interventions to juvenile crime.

One such group is the San Quentin's Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies (SQUIRES). Representatives from SQUIRES attended the forum. The group's goal is to initiate counseling workshops, seminars, lectures, and other projects intended to assist young

people in overcoming antisocial behavior.

"Intervention needs to come before kids are sent to juvenile hall," said David Basile, SQUIRES Chairman. "It appears to me that the visitors seem to agree with that perspective."

Because of the "great work" of SQUIRES, it makes for a "most effective form of opening dialogue between us and the kids we work with," said Rani Singh, one of the visitors. "What everyone talked about here today totally validates why I do what I do."

Another "evidence-based" group at San Quentin is The Alliance for Change, which assists incarcerated individuals to re-integrate back into society through community building and civic engagement.

The Alliance for Change achieves its mission through social justice education, practical living training, and real community support upon their release from prison. The group's chairman, Ricky Malik Harris, began serving a life sentence when he was 26.

"One of the serious problems we have in the African-American and Hispanic communities is that we glorify the criminal lifestyle that got us here," Harris said. "We really need to change that. We need to extend the individual rehabilitation programs to those men paroling. It may be hard, but it needs to be done."

Among the visitors was Luis M. Aroche, an ex-felon. He was the first alternative sentencing planner to be hired by a district attorney in California, part of a new statewide plan to keep low-risk offenders from being sent to jail with much higher-risk prisoners.

"I grew up in the Mission District (San Francisco), one of eight children," said Aroche. "My fa-



Men in blue discuss criminal issues with S.F. District Attorneys

ther worked as a security guard, and my mother was a maid. I spent time as a gang member, and I had several brushes with the law."

San Francisco's District Attorney George Gascón hired Aroche with state funds from Gov. Jerry Brown's realignment plan, designed to slim the bloated prison system, where two-thirds of released prisoners return to custody within three years.

"Youth violence can develop in different ways. Some children exhibit problem behavior in early childhood that gradually escalates to more severe forms of aggression before and during adolescence," a report on juvenile violence affirms.

"It was a great opportunity for me to talk to the guys on the other side of the isle. I was interested in what may have prevented them from committing their crimes in the first place," said Marc Massarweh, an assistant DA.

After the forum, Rodriguez shared that, "The most powerful part was observing my friends and colleagues taking in all of this. We are tasked with protecting and serving our communities and seeing the bigger picture

of coming into San Quentin. It's very powerful," said Rodriguez. "It is important for us to know all aspects of the criminal justice system. This gives us an opportunity to find from offenders what would work or make things better."

"The legislative trends evidenced during the past decade reflect a new understanding of adolescent development," according to a recent report on juvenile justice. Investing in community-based alternatives and evidenced-based intervention programs are better serving youth and addressing juvenile crime, the report concludes.

Discussions at the National Conference of State Legislatures last June revealed, "Evidence-based programs or policies are supported by a rigorous outcome evaluation that clearly demonstrates effectiveness." Some of the examples given of various programs that have worked for example are, "multi-systemic therapy, family functional therapy, and aggression replacement training." These are evidence-based interventions in place in juvenile justice systems today in at least eight states. California is not included in that list of states providing these programs.

## New Chief Of CDCR

*Continued from Page 1*

Beard's appointment requires state Senate confirmation.

California's prison system is more than twice as large as Pennsylvania's.

"The new secretary has just the experience California needs," Brown said in a statement announcing the appointment Dec. 17. "He's been a prison warden, led the correctional system in

Pennsylvania, and more recently participated in the federal oversight of California's prisons, visiting the majority of our institutions."

"In the face of a plethora of federal court decisions and the bold realignment enacted by the Legislature, Jeff Beard has arrived at the right time to take the next steps in returning California's parole and correctional institutions to their former luster," Brown added.

## Joint Venture Program Provides Funding for Services

*Continued from Page 1*

tion when they enter back into the community."

Checks were accepted by Executive Director Tom Wilson of Community Alliance (Marin County), Executive Director Donna Garske of Center for Domestic Peace (Marin County), Chief Executive Officer Mary Dent of Sunny Hills Children's Center (Marin County), Executive Director Marcia Blackstock

of Bay Area Women Against Rape (Alameda County), and Program Manager Regina Jackson of East Oakland Youth Development Center (Alameda County).

"The money will go towards survivors of domestic violence, especially those who are immigrants and have no place to go," said Wilson. "Thank you to all the men that give back with their hard work. We know they care."

"We've been receiving checks since the beginning of Labcon at S.Q., which has been 20 years," said Denton. "We truly appreciate the funds. It goes to at-risk kids and foster children. This money is helping kids that desperately need it."

Maura Prendiville of Center for Domestic Peace said, "The money will go to a general fund that provides shelter for domestic violence victims, transitional housing, and support groups."



Joint Venture workers presenting their checks

# Inspiring Teacher Helps At-Risk Kids

By Charles David Henry  
Staff Writer

More than 20 years ago, a promising student dropped out of school to sell drugs and was killed in a turf war. The event motivated his teacher, Dr. John Marshall, to start a program to support at-risk youngsters and steer them toward productive lives.

"It's hard to teach a kid math at 13, then go his funeral at 19," said Marshall.

More than 10,000 youth have attended the Omega Boys Club's group counseling and tutoring sessions, reports The Oakland Tribune. They are drilled in "straight-talk" sessions about survival in the streets.

Marshall says his teaching concepts focus on the "root issues behind the students' self-destructive behavior." His mentoring program prepares the young men to recognize risk factors that make them more likely to succumb to the disease of street violence.

## S.Q. Education Dept. Gets Grant Support For College Supplies

By Ted Swain  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Voluntary Education Program at San Quentin received an \$80,000 grant for college textbooks from the California State Library. Tom Bolema, literacy coordinator of college programs at San Quentin, said, "This is the greatest thing that ever happened!"

Typically a textbook costs from \$40 to \$200, which many inmate students can't afford. Principal Tony Beebe of the Burton Adult School at San Quentin said the cost of textbooks is the "single largest barrier to inmate college participation."

The grant was provided specifically for college course textbooks. Bolema said the books "will help give inmates the tools necessary for success in mainstream society." He said that education and literacy are keys to lowering the recidivism rate.

Currently, about two out of every three inmates who are released return to prison. Studies indicate that inmates who participate in prison education programs have a lower chance of doing so, according to Debra Lynch of the California State Library.

Bolema chose which books to buy for the San Quentin classes. He ordered 10 books for each of the Coastline College

Michael Gibson, 37, is one success story. At 12, Gibson was arrested for selling drugs and dropped out of school. Four years later, a judge sentenced him to eight years at California Youth Authority for attempted murder with the possession of firearms. Upon his release, the Omega Boys Club helped him turn his life around.

He earned his B.A. from Morehouse College in Atlanta. Today, he is married, has a 5-year-old son and is a program manager for the Alameda County Public Health Department's emergency medical staff.

Thanks to numerous donations, Marshall promises to send anyone in the program to college if they finish high school or get their GED. To date, the club has helped 176 boys and girls attend college.

The club was launched in 1987 by Marshall and Jack Jacqua, a former San Francisco public school teacher who volunteers with SQUIRES, San Quentin's youth mentor program.

and Lassen College classes he facilitates. The Voluntary Education Program coordinators at San Quentin act as conduits to a dozen or so colleges.

Beebe said San Quentin and Ironwood prisons received money through the grant. He noted the state has budgeted funds this year for the purchase of books for students at other prisons as well.

"It's a no-brainer," said San Quentin inmate Barry Jameson. "Buying books instead of more cells only makes sense," he added.

Society can generate investment returns on the money because rather than returning to prison, the students can now become tax-paying citizens, Jameson commented. "Do you want a person with a college degree getting out of prison, or a person who has spent the past 15 years working out and learning more criminal stuff?" he added.

Now "hundreds of inmates will be able to complete college classes they might not otherwise have been able to complete," Bolema said. Thanks to the funding, San Quentin inmates are now on a broader path to literacy, and have more resources to complete an associate's degree.

In addition to the college textbooks, the Voluntary Education Program received a large number of recreational reading books.

## EDUCATION CORNER



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

VEP coordinators T. Bolema, D. Bray, K. Williams, G. Young, J. Kaufman and D. Searle

## Education Program Expands

San Quentin's Voluntary Education Program has grown in the past several months adding five positions to the existing two.

Six VEP teachers now operate as Literacy Coordinators out of the Education C Building, and one position is yet to be filled. Each coordinator maintains a roster of 120 students, resulting in services to 720 students. Participants can earn GEDs, college degrees, milestone credits, and life skills competencies.

Participation in VEP is voluntary, unlike the ABE Program in which students are assigned based on educational accomplishment. A student can be enrolled in VEP and assigned to a job simultaneously.

"For so many students' educational success isn't a matter of mental horsepower, but a matter of engaging their motivational transmissions, said VEP coordinator G. Young.

"VEP gives students the option of accelerated growth."

Fellow coordinator K. Williams agrees, "VEP students are highly motivated."

VEP coordinators are equally motivated to provide a full service educational experience, D. Searle provides GED math instruction Tuesdays, 1-2pm in Education Building C2, and J. Kaufman provides GED essay writing workshops there Thursdays, 1-2pm. VEP college students work mostly in Room C1, where coordinators facilitate learning activities for students enrolled in a half dozen different colleges, universities and trade schools. Building C1 and 2 classroom doors are open for students Monday through Thursday, 8am to 2:30 pm.

"One-on-one direct instruction gives the student confidence to discuss a learning problem without embarrassment, while the study hall format, and the additional teachers, assures that someone is always there to help," said VEP Coordinator D. Bray.

"VEP evolved out of the Independent Study and Distance Learning programs that had been established some years ago at some of the institutions," said T. Bolema, who has facilitated such programs both at Lancaster and San Quentin.

"Program success depends on the amount of support that management is willing to extend to a non-traditional learning model. Meeting the needs of VEP students is a challenge, but with the increased staff, and the inmate clerks' and tutors' assistance, so far so good," said Bolema.

"About 20 percent of our students are ready to take their GED, 40 percent are taking college courses, and another 40 percent are preparing for the GED," said Kaufman.

Along with C1 and 2 classroom activities, VEP coordinators also work with students in the Condemned Unit, South Block, the Hospital, PIA, and the Firehouse.

— Charles David Henry

## H-Unit Self Awareness Program Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

By Kenyota R. Gray  
H-Unit Reporter

A decade ago, H-Unit began running a number of self-help programs designed to draw awareness to the need for emotional growth and personal empowerment. Now, as a result of the efforts of both staff facilitators and inmate-participants, the H-Unit Stand Up! program continues to help inmates develop their communication skills.

### COMMEMORATION

In commemoration of 10 years of Stand Up!, participants recently organized an ice cream and cake social in the H-Unit dining hall. "Our hope is to use this celebration as a welcoming beacon to the general popula-

tion that these worthwhile programs are here to help improve their lives," said Stand Up! facilitator Jim Ward.

More than 150 inmate representatives from the various Stand Up! programs — such as Victims Offender Education Group, IMPACT, Non-Violent Communication and This Sacred Space — attended the commemoration.

The consensus among those in attendance was that, if a person has a desire to change and a willingness to make certain sacrifices, then Stand Up! can change their lives.

"Stand Up! means I get a chance to experience a real life that I never thought possible," said Steve McAllister, a participant in VOEG and several 12-step programs.

### SUPPORT

The Stand Up! program has garnered a tremendous amount of collective group support from the general population. Ward and his staff of inmate workers advocate the program as a creative outlet for productive change. The group holds "Stand Up!" orientations every Wednesday for all H-Unit inmates from 10 a.m. to noon.

## SPORTS

# Athlete of the Year Named

**Voted #1 by San Quentin's Coaches and Officials**

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

San Quentin's sports leaders have overwhelmingly elected Carlyle White Otter Blake as the 2012 San Quentin Athlete of the Year.

In 2012 Blake played right field for the San Quentin A's baseball team, running back for the San Quentin All-Madden flag football team, and led his intramural league basketball team in scoring.

"Special thanks for all the guys who voted for me as the athlete of the year and all the people I've played with," said Blake. "It's a blessing to get past the boundaries and for guys to recognize my talents."

Blake has been involved in sports since he was very young, growing up in poverty on a reservation in Hoopa, California. He wrestled and played football for Hoopa High School. "I was raised in sports. I look up to Jim Thorpe," a Native American pro-

fessional football player who played running back, said Blake. He also played in basketball and softball tournaments outside of high school, and wrestled in cage fights

play hard. "He always told me if you're going to do something, do it 100 percent. So I took it to heart and give it my all when I'm playing," he said.

He honors Carlson and his grandmother for supporting him throughout his life. "My mother passed away when I was very young," he said. "My grandmother, Carmen Cane, has always been there for me. She never gave up on me. My grandparents raised me in a good structured home and I have always been really in tune with my native culture and ceremonies."

He expressed how if he had a chance to do things over he would have stayed away from bad influences and stayed in school.

"Playing sports in prison helps me stay focused on positive things. I get to be around positive people and have positive results," he said.

Now he considers himself a student athlete, taking classes with San Quentin's Prison University Project. He also participates in restorative justice programs.

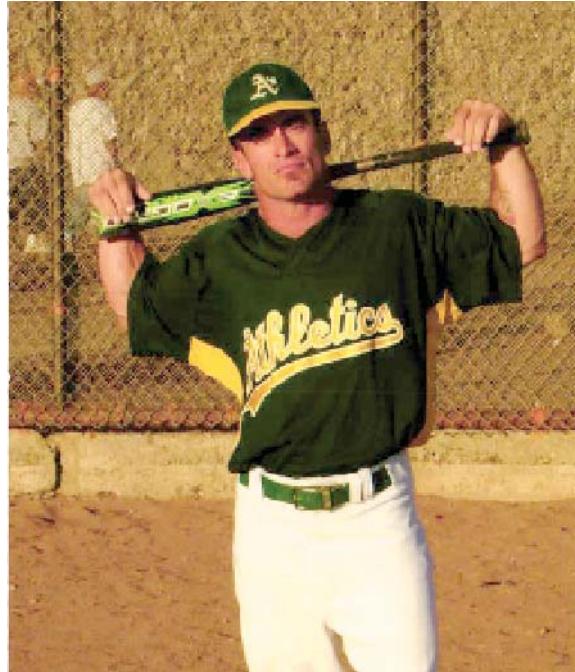


Photo by Ernest Woods  
Otter poses for team picture

at the Blue Lake casino in his hometown.

"When it comes to athletics, my skills come naturally. It's my God-given ability," said Blake.

He credits his grandfather, Carlson, for his motivation to

Photo By Sam Hearnes



Coach Thompson-Bonilla motivates All-Madden

## A Coach's Summary

All-Madden's coach reviews the team's year

In a successful flag-football season, defense is an area of improvement, according to Head Coach Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla and wide receiver Dwight Kennedy.

Coach Thompson-Bonilla envisioned All-Madden becoming a professional and organized program. "I wanted to infuse a sense of professionalism with respect to how the coaches and the team went about their business," he said. "To do that, the coaches and I had to lay the foundation by implementing responsibility and accountability as a part of the criteria for playing on this team."

His vision became reality and the All-Madden team went on to finish the season with a winning record. "I believe the season was a huge success despite being truncated due to a late start," he explained. "The goal was to go undefeated, and that was our mindset all year. How-

ever, we suffered a one-point loss to the Gridiron Boys and we finished the season 4-1."

Kennedy discussed their area of improvement going into next season. He said, "I believe with the talent that the Madden team possesses, we can be much stronger on defense."

"We will practice more intently on applying the principles of our zone coverage next season," said Coach Thompson-Bonilla. "Despite our ability to win, we allowed our opponents to score when we should have stopped them. While opponents obviously will score, it should never come via a blown assignment."

Kennedy explained how he could work harder as an individual to improve the team. "I can improve by continuing to work hard, grow, and stay consistent," he commented.

— Gary Scott

## Outsiders Ball Team Routs Kings 70 to 63

Team returns to San Quentin to finish season with a win against the Kings

The San Quentin Kings 40-and-over basketball team could not respond to the Outsiders' three-point shooting in the fourth quarter, losing the game 70-63.

Tied 46-46 with 12 minutes left in the fourth quarter, the Outsiders went on to drain five three-pointers.

Mark S. of the Outsiders started it off, burying a three-pointer from the left corner to break the tie.

Kings guard Orlando Harris countered with a three-pointer to retie the game at 49-49.

The Outsiders struck back with back-to-back three-pointers by Mark S. and Tom T. to take a 55-49 lead.

"This was the best game I played since I've been coming here," said Mark S.

The Kings struck back as guard Billy Wilson pulled up from the top of the key and drained a three-pointer. Kings forward Paul Davidson followed with a strong post move to decrease the Outsider's lead to 55-54.

***"This is the best game I played since I've been coming here"***



The 2012 San Quentin Kings basketball team

## S.Q. Kings Season Reviewed

The season was successful, but could have been better, Coach Orlando Harris and forward Paul Davidson of the San Quentin Kings' 40-and-over basketball team said.

"We finished the season 11-6 and we lost three of those games by one point," said Coach Harris. "We under-achieved."

He explained his regrets about letting his players play in the intramural league. "There was a lot of wear and tear on their

bodies, considering the practices, the regular season games, as well as the intramural league games," Harris said.

"If I had a chance to start all over again, my coaching style would remain the same," he said. "I communicated well. My coaching style worked, my players bought into my style, and they learned communication and life skills."

He named Davidson his team's Most Valuable Player.

"He is the heart and soul of the team," said Harris. "He started the season averaging 30 points a game."

"I like the acknowledgment, although I'm more of a team player and not about individual awards," said Davidson. "Coach Harris and I worked well together. He told me what he wanted me to do, and I did it."

— Gary Scott

"We gave up a lot of second chance points the last time we were here," said Mark S. "So this time we tried to limit them and score second-chance points of our own."

Mark S. scored a game-high 21 points. He played junior varsity basketball at Grasberg High School in Wisconsin.

Davidson finished with a team high 17 points.

— Gary Scott

# Veterans Battle it Out on the Softball Field

By Chris Schuhmacher  
VVGSQ Chairman

On a crisp and clear November morning, the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin held its inaugural Camaraderie Softball game.

Armed with bat, gloves, and the indomitable spirit of competition, group members and one honorary draftee stormed San Quentin's Field of Dreams ready for action. In keeping with a Civil War theme, Ernie Vick was selected as general of the blue team, the Damn Yankees. Kenneth Goodlow was appointed commander of the gray's Johnny Rebels. Once

the teams were selected, the stage was set for a historic softball Civil War.

As the game got under way, Gary Harrell was drafted to serve as the all-time pitcher. When asked about his participation, he replied "Usually, I'm a man of peace, but these feisty veterans really got me fired up. It's an honor and a privilege to take part in this friendly battle alongside men who have served our country."

The Rebels took an early one-run lead with hits by Darryl Farris, Johnny Gomez, and the fleet-footed Harry Barton. The Yankees rallied back as Larry Faison, Greg Sanders, and Jim

Snider launched bombs of their own into the outfield, taking the lead 4 to 1.

In the second inning, both teams got dirty in the trenches and really gave it their all. The Rebels scored another run, but once again the Yankees rallied with three of their own.

## No guts, no glory'

With the bases loaded and two outs, General Vick headed to the plate with bat in hand. He recalled thinking, "No guts...no glory. I can end this now." With his head held high, he walked back to the dugout

thinking, "Strikeouts, like war, are hell."

Going into the final inning, the Rebels were down 7 to 2. The comeback charge was mounted with a valiant resurgence of offense from Jesse Hernandez and David Tarvan. Yankee shortstop John Johnston dug in with two spectacular plays to first baseman Garvin "JoJo" Robinson. The Rebels managed to score two additional runs, but in the end it wasn't enough. Our nation's history has repeated itself and The Damn Yankees once again seized the day with a 7-4 victory.

After the game, the two teams circled up and each ex-

pressed their appreciation for the sportsmanship and camaraderie that was displayed. General Goodlow summed up the day by saying, "We may have lost, but getting out here with my brothers was a really nice and genuine experience. Once I get over this soreness, I'll be ready for a rematch. So, look out!"

The VVGSQ is issuing a challenge to all outside veterans groups who would be interested in playing the San Quentin squad on the notorious Field of Dreams. To accept the challenge, contact Chief Sponsor Lt. K. Evans at San Quentin, (415) 454-1460 ext. 5205.



Photo by Michael Nelson

The 2012 San Quentin Warriors and Sports Ministry basketball teams

## Warriors' Season Ends in a Loss

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

After a disappointing season, Coach Daniel Wright said he expects improvements next year for the San Quentin Warriors' basketball team.

**"We had our good and bad moments. We learn from each other..."**

The Warriors finished the 2012 season below .500.

For next season, Wright said, "I'm going to have an open try-

out. No one has a spot right now and with the new influx of talent, I believe we will have a better season."

As for the 2012 season, "I accept a lot of the responsibility for not preparing my players in practice and in games," said Wright. "I was disappointed about the season, considering all the talent we had. I thought we had our highs and we had our lows."

### Regrets

Wright said, "I probably should have stressed defense, rebounds and some of the X's and O's a little more in depth."

"I feel like the season was a seesaw," said guard Joshua

Burton. "We had our good and bad moments. We learned from each other and grew as men with each other."

Wright named Allan McIntosh the Most Valuable Player of the Warriors' season.

"I'm proud of the honorable recognition, knowing I came in half way through the season," said McIntosh. "I'm honored for that and I do accept it."

Wright also recognized the play of a few more of his play-

ers. He said, "I liked the consistent intensity that Jhavonte Carr, Burton, Rafael Cuevas and Richard 'Mujahid' Munns brought to every game. I knew they were going to play hard for me."

## Inaugural Class Celebrates Completion

By San Quentin News Staff

A program aimed at helping prisoners overcome anger issues held its first graduating class for 30 men.

Called *Guiding Rage Into Power*, or GRIP, is a self-help program for changing lives.

### MOTHER'S VIEW

"I think it's a wonderful experience, being here to see him, I'm very proud of him," said Janet Buckley, mother of Michael Tyler, one of the graduates at the November graduation. "I really enjoy seeing the

progress he's making. All the programs he's taking inside, he can take out into society," added Doris Earsery, Tyler's aunt.

The violence-prevention,

emotional-intelligence, and

life-skills program was developed by Jacques Verduin. The

52-week program teaches of-

enders how to understand and

transform violent behavior and

replace it with an attitude that

helps them comprehend the

origins of anger. Participants

develop skills to track and

manage strong impulses before

they are acted out in destruc-

tive ways.

### COMMUNITY

Verduin said GRIP gives the community more direct involvement in how justice is administered through its connection to offenders.

"I'm here to learn more and it looks like an important program for inmates to do good work and work on themselves," said author Lindsey Crittenton. His book, *The Water Will Hold You*, tells the story about how he came to terms with the murder of this brother.

The GRIP approach as been developed over 17 years of working with thousands of prisoners, mostly at San Quentin State Prison.

"We are not hiding or running. We've stopped that. We are no longer a problem we are a part of the solution," said facilitator Robin Guillen.

GRIP is recognized by the Marin Probation Department as

A major component of the program is that it functions as a peer education model, where experienced students co-facilitate the classes and mentor newer students. Students sign a pledge to become a non-violence person and peacemaker.

### PARTICIPANTS

GRIP facilitators are Robin Guillen, John Neblett, Richard Poma, and Randy Maluenda

List Of Graduates: Edward C. Ballenger, Gordon L. Brown, Sr., Derrick Cooper, Michael Endres, Robert D. Frye, Eddie D. Herena, Bernard Moss, Arlyis

a program that meets the needs of parolees who must take a 52-week court-ordered domestic violence program before release to the community. It also is able to certify prisoners as facilitators of domestic violence prevention as a job skill.

### GRADUATES

Peters, Alexi Ruiz, Michael Tyler, Dominique Whitaker, Borey Ai, David Baker, Travis Banks, Eric Boles, Gary Calhoun, Bruce Cooper, Andrew Gazzany, Richard Honea, Stephen Yar Liebb, Alton McSween, A. Terrell Merritt, Vaughn Miles, Edgar Moore, Jr., Kevork Parakian, Dave Robinson, Ron G. Self, Darryll Sherman, Perry Simpson, Phang Nou Thao, and Binh Vo.

More information is available at Insight-Out: P.O. Box 888, Woodacre, CA 94973, jverduin@comcast.net and www.insight-out.org.



GRIP graduates proudly display their diplomas



Graduates and guests celebrate after the ceremony

# Season's Greetings

## The Meaning Behind the Christmas Tree

By Dwight Krizman and Stuart Ross  
Contributing Writer

Prior to the Volkswagen Bug, Frankfurter, Werner Klemperer and Beethoven, Germany bestowed upon mankind an icon of greater importance: The modern Christmas Tree.

A prop master in medieval Germany selected an evergreen fir as the centerpiece of a popular medieval play about Adam and Eve, based on the Old Testament story. It was hung with apples representing the tree of good and evil and called a "Paradise Tree." Over time, a tradition developed as the German people set up Paradise Trees in their homes on Dec. 24, which they considered a religious feast day in honor of Adam and Eve.

As the tradition grew, the Bible's New Testament began to influence the annual celebration. First wafers, then cookies of various shapes, were also hung on the tree, symbolizing the consecrated bread of the Eucharist. Later, candles were added to represent the light to the world of Christ's gift of salvation.

The custom of the Christmas tree came to America via German and English settlers as early as the 1600s and beautifully decorated trees became the height of fashion in the 1800s. By the 1700s, Christmas trees had become widespread in Germany's Lutheran community and a deeply rooted tradition throughout by the 1800s.

Christmas Trees were popularized in England in the mid-1800s by Prince Albert (of German decent) and Queen Victoria. Hand-crafted, blown-glass ornaments began to appear in the 1870s, while strings of electric lights began to replace the candles in the 1890s.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUN FACT: The state of Maryland chose the melody from Germany's "O, Tannenbaum" (the English title of the song is "O, Christmas Tree") for the music of their state song!

Today in America during the holiday season the Christmas tree is seen everywhere. They are in homes, offices, public spaces, including your banks and town squares, to the impressive 60-foot great fir placed on the White House lawn. Christmas trees have become visual wonders for adults and children and act as centerpieces for gatherings of families and friends, under which gifts are placed as displays of love.

The modern English word "Christmas" derives from an Old English word "Cristes Maeses," which translates as Christ's Mass. A "mass" is a gathering of people for celebration.

A Christmas tree evergreen leaves symbolize Christ's everlasting love. Ornaments, conjure the story of Adam and Eve and Christ's sacrifice. The tree's lights symbolize that Christ was the light of the world. A star on the tree's crown reminds of the star of Bethlehem.

Some say the Christmas tree has pagan origins. Others point out that centuries have passed, and the Yule tree now symbolizes beauty and love and Christian faith.

Critics say our love won't pay the rent. Perhaps "they" are right. But as Steve Buscemi said 16 years ago in the movie Fargo, "I didn't come here to debate with you."

## Buddhist Practitioners Ordained in S.Q.

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Eleven inmates and two free persons have been ordained as Buddhist lay practitioners in San Quentin. The San Quentin Buddhadharma Sangha conducted the ordination ceremony, which also included vows for the newly minted adherents to become Bodhisattvas. A Bodhisattva is one who aspires for supreme enlightenment and to follow the way of the Buddha for themselves and all beings.

Zen Priest "Seido" Lee deBarros blessed the main altar, which held two icons: One showed Buddha sitting; the other depicted Manjushri holding an upright sword, symbolically used to cut through ignorance.

Priest "Jiryu" Mark Rutschman-Byler was followed by the 11 inmates and two women preparing to be ordained.

On a second small precept altar, a pine needle whisk was dipped in water and sprinkled on the soon-to-be initiated. The act symbolized clarity, cleanliness and the ability to give comfort. Three bows by the initiates honored the original Buddha (Shakyamuni), Dharma (Law), and Sangha (Buddhist community).

After the ritualistic purification of minds and bodies of aspiring Buddhists, each made vows to take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, known as the Three Treasures.

Each aspirant vowed to follow 16 precepts expected of a Bodhisattva, including promises to honor life, not to steal, to be sexually respectful, to not become intoxicated, not slander, and to practice loving kindness.

Seido explained that the ceremony has direct linkage to the original Buddha Shakyamuni. The priest gave each newly minted Bodhisattva a blue Wagesa (a sash), worn around the neck. Each Wagesa carried an inscription with a Dharma name given by Seido, embodying a characteristic or personality of the new Bodhisattva.



Members of the San Quentin Buddhadharma Sangha and visiting practitioners

Names given are meant to inspire virtuous conduct: "Endless Effort," "Luminous Owl," "Nourishing Flame," "Direct Heart," "Sitting Mountain," "True Devotion" and "Ancient Devotion."

Seido extended congratulations and an admonition that the precepts are a gift to encourage a Buddhist practice to be kind, truthful, and be mindful that "Your actions reflect your practice."

"Jun" Donna Hammamoto, now also known as "Nourishing Flame," said she decided to partake in a ceremony in prison, rather than the free world, because prison is an especially difficult place to practice the Buddhist life, and being around Buddhist prisoners to her was especially "inspiring."

The newly ordained are Daniel Borrero, Ronald Cooper, Marcus Crumb, Louis Daniels, Al Garner, Elizabeth Gorelick, Donna Hammamoto, Richard Lindsey, Sean Malis, Terrell Merritt, Greg Sanders, Tan Tran and Phoeun You.

Each new Bodhisattva also received a sitting Buddha icon.

After the Dec. 1 ceremony, hot herbal teas and home-made cookies were served.

# Season's Greetings

## Spending the Holiday Season in San Quentin

By Kris Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

Little touches of the Christmas spirit are scattered around San Quentin. Twinkling lights and other decorations adorn the Protestant Chapel, Education Department classrooms, the library, visiting room and administration offices.

The Protestant Chapel hung two wreaths on the front door. Inside the chapel, a three-foot Christmas tree was erected. Tinsel can also be seen throughout the chapel. On Dec. 8 the chapel held its annual volunteers banquet.

According to Arnulfo Garcia, a prisoner who attended the banquet many smiles adorned the faces of those that attended. "I was very appreciative for the volunteers who contributed to feed 350 prisoners and guest," he said. "Christians have been celebrating the birth of Christ since his birth and every year they tell the real meaning of Christmas. Christ brought us out of darkness and into the light, giving all those who believe in eternal life with God. So Christians come together to celebrate Jesus as our savior."

A small artificial Christmas tree with twinkling stars greets staff, volunteers and prisoners in the Education Building foyer. Other Christmas decorations are sprinkled throughout the building. According one staff member, "The inmates at San Quentin are active in the celebration of Christmas. They scavenge for bits and pieces that can be used to make Christmas decorations. The wreaths were made by twisting paper bags together and tying them with twine."

Christmas literally means "Christ's Mass." The oldest known use of the term dates back to 1038. It is sometimes abbreviated "Xmas," which is taken from the initial letter chi (X) in Greek, according to the on-line encyclopedia Wikipedia.

Throughout the world, gift-giving and a special meal is traditionally an important part of Christmas Eve and Christmas. Giving gifts dates back to the Roman celebration of Saturnalia, an ancient festival that took place in late December and may have influenced Christmas customs. It is associated with St. Nicholas and gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that were given to the baby Jesus by the Biblical Magi.

For San Quentin prisoners, Christmas is celebrated in various ways. M. Quezada has been incarcerated since he was 16 years old, has a "Christmas Eve" spread, which consists of beef burritos, Pepsi soda and brownies or some other chocolate sweets. He also telephones his parents and siblings to wish them a Merry Christmas.

Jorge Heredia, who has been incarcerated for the last 15 years said, "My Christmases were too good on the street. I don't celebrate it because it hurts not being able



Veterans pass out toys for their Christmas toy program  
From left to right: D. Tarvin, L. Beavers, Lt. K. Evans and B. Spillman at the event.

to celebrate the way I used to celebrate it with my family. Starting in October, I don't write or call them until around the end of January. I don't want them to think about me when they are supposed to be celebrating."

For the last six years prisoner, Quinton Walker has been celebrating Christmas in the morning by saying a prayer and listening to Christmas music. He then drinks a cup of coffee. "I only put cream and sugar in my coffee at Christmas," he says. Walker calls his mother and talks to her and other family members who gather at her home. He says, "calling home lifts my spirit." At noon, Walker and four other people gather and play Monopoly. Before the 4 p.m. lockdown, around 3 o'clock they share a meal of seafood burritos. "Three of us don't eat meat," Walker says. "At night, I light a small battery operated candle and watch Christmas movies."



Outside Sponsors gearing up to give Veterans a hand for the Christmas toy program

## San Quentin's Christmas Dinner

Green salad w/dressing, Roast Beef, Turkey, Dressing, Yams, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Cranberry Sauce, Pumpkin Pie, Chocolate Milk

# Fallen War Heroes Honored on Veterans Day

By San Quentin News Staff

As a bell tolled, San Quentin prisoners joined with community members to honor combat and suicide victims of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Veterans Day event was organized by Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out. The group was conceived by Ron Self, a former Marine currently incarcerated at San Quentin, and offers a 36-week curriculum inspired by the GRIP (Guiding Rage into Power) and VOEG (Victim-Offender Education Group) programs.

## PTSD

The program aims to address stress and post-traumatic stress disorder in all San Quentin veterans, regardless of discharge status. Outside sponsors are Director Jacques Verduin, Susan Shannon, and Vietnam veterans Brent MacKinnon and Lt. Col.

Sunny Campbell, US Marine Corps, retired.

At the event, the group acknowledged the 6,700 coalition forces killed in action in both wars, 4,500 of whom were Americans.

## NAMES

The combat casualties' names were printed out on 134 pages and were distributed to inmates who wanted to honor the fallen. Many of the names were read aloud to a bell tolling, until an institutional recall cut the ceremony short. The bell honored those killed in action as well as post-combat veterans who took their own lives.

Numerous outside guests and inmates were on hand for the event. A few guest speakers, veterans from World War II and wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, spoke about the history of PTSD. The condition, once referred to as "shell



Photo by Michael Nelson

Veterans united in tribute of those fallen in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars

shock" or "battle fatigue", is now recognized by the American Psychological Association as a diagnosable condition. The APA also now recognizes that long-term incarceration can result in symptoms of PTSD.

The San Quentin American Indian Culture Group, many of them war veterans, built a fire at the nearby ceremonial ground. The men tending the fire roasted fry bread and chicken for participants.

More information about Veterans Healing Veterans From the Inside Out can be found on Facebook or at [www.insight-out.org](http://www.insight-out.org). Susan Shannon's account of the event can be found at [prisondharmanetwork.org](http://prisondharmanetwork.org).

# Green Life Celebrates its First Graduation

By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

The earthly sound of a wood flute set the mood. The Green Life environmental program held its first graduation for 18 students and nine group facilitators on Nov 16. San Quentin prisoners were awarded certificates for participation in the only such group in California's prison system.

Jorge Heredia and Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett, graduate/facilitators, emceed the ceremony, speaking on the significance of The Green Life program and its impact on the students, institution, and community.

"The Green Life program gives us a unique and important way to give back to our communities after our release," said one graduate.

Facilitator Arnulfo T. Garcia gave a special thanks to Michael Harris (no longer in San Quentin), one of the men who was an integral leader in the formation of the program.

Students studied specifics about environmental issues affecting the planet, as well as solutions to protect it for future

generations. Topics were Waste Management and Recycling, Green Building, Energy Resources, Water and Air Quality, Parks and Open Spaces, Biodiversity, Environmental Justice, and Public Policy/ Community Action.

Graduate student Fabian Vazquez was recently given a parole date. The parole board praised him for his involvement in The Green Life. "So we're doing the environmental thing at San Quentin now?" a commissioner asked. (Your file) "indicates that you have participated in 20 hours of training in green technology." The impact of his participation in The Green Life was recognized and factored into the board's decision to grant parole.

The Green Life founder and director Angela Sevin said her idea was to "develop a groundbreaking eco-literacy and green job preparedness curriculum, striving to share practical pathways for meaningful lives."

The Green Life is comprised of people united to seek solutions to environmental issues, and they call themselves, Solutionaries. Their mission statement: "A



Photo by Tom Bolema

Green Life Committee together at San Quentin's 2012 Health Fair

collaboration of Solutionaries from inside and outside communities that inspire and awakens our connection to the earth and each other, by contributing to individual, community, and global transformation."

## DEVELOPMENT

"The Green Life program was a long time in the making," Sevin told the audience. "People wanted to get involved and learn." Referencing a Van Jones quote, she said, "If we can give a second chance to a can or a soda pop bottle, why not a human being?"

The Green Life's co-sponsor, Pandora Thomas, said after "committing" herself to the earth, she came to California and fell in love with the concept of helping men at San Quentin getting involved with environmental issues. "I'm so grateful to be part of this awesome program and those committed to it."

Twenty-five outside environmentalists attended the ceremony and banquet that followed.

Many guests said they were amazed and appreciated, not

only to the students and to sponsors, but also San Quentin's administration for permitting an opportunity for men interested in environmental issues.

Outside guest Dedan Gills said The Green Life graduates were doing a "great service – one of the most inspirational things I've ever witnessed. Seeing you in prison caring about our environment from the inside out is just amazing."

## ASSISTANCE

Another guest, Jason Mark, a member of the Earth Island Institute and editor of the Earth Island Journal magazine, interviewed a number of graduates and guests. According to the Earth Island Institute's mission statement: "We grow environmental leadership by acting as an incubator for start-up environmental projects, giving crucial assistance to groups and individuals" such as The Green Life program at San Quentin.

Outside guest Ashara Ekundayo performed a brief "libation ceremony" – a West African tradition of pouring water, "the element that sustains all life

and connects everything on the planet," explained Ekundayo. It is believed that pouring the water also represents strengthening friendships and family ties.

At the conclusion of the libation ceremony, Ekundayo offered the ceremonial water to hydrate a potted tree.

## ENVIRONMENTALIST

Also present was environmentalist Bill Twist, president of PACHAMAMA (.org) Alliance. He said that being part of The Green Life program is a "great experience and very worthwhile. The generosity given to me was really open. I was treated with as much grace as I have received anywhere I've been on earth."

Twist told the students that it was important to him how "deeply engaged" The Green Life members are. He gave special praise to Angela and Pandora for what they have done with the program. "I'm honored to be here to share this experience with all of you," said Twist.

The Green Life will continue its curriculum with new Solutionaries in February 2013.



Photo by Tom Bolema

Angela Sevin, Jorge Heredia and Arnulfo Garcia

# Study: Innocent Often Pressured into Plea Bargains

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Suspects who are falsely accused of committing crimes are often pressured into accepting plea bargains, according to a recent study.

"It is unclear how many of the more than 96 percent of defendants who are convicted through pleas of guilty each year are actually innocent of the charged offenses, but it is clear that plea bargaining has an innocence problem," according to the unpublished study conducted by researchers at the University of Georgia School of Law and the Florida Institute of Technology.

To illustrate the issue, researchers attempted to recreate the conditions in which innocent defendants accept plea bargains.

Using college students as their subjects, the authors concluded

that plea bargains are often detrimental to the cases of those who take them.

The authors asked the students to complete a set of logic questions for financial compensation. They then falsely accused the students of cheating, and told them that if they did not admit their guilt, they would be disciplined and lose their compensation. If they did admit their guilt, they would lose their compensation but would not be disciplined.

"More than half of the innocent participants were willing to falsely admit guilt in return for a perceived benefit," according to the study. Students in the study who faced harsh sentences, irrespective of guilt or innocence, "accepted the plea offer at a rate almost 10 percent higher than the subjects facing the lenient

sentencing condition," the study said.

There was a direct relationship between the length of the sentence and the likelihood that a defendant will accept the bargain, researchers concluded

***... it is clear that  
plea bargaining has an inno-  
cence problem.***

As Ellen Podgor wrote in a 2010 article about innocence in white collar crime, "innocence is no longer the key determinant ... Our legal system places the risk of going to trial, and in some cases even being charged with a crime, so high, that innocence and guilt no longer become the real consideration."

The study acknowledged the opposing view. Some experts believe the problem is "exaggerated," arguing that the likelihood of a false confession in the case of a plea bargain is minimal. That argument is based on the perception that falsely accused defendants will not accept a prosecutor's offer to plead guilty.

"Today, over 96 percent of convictions in the federal system result from pleas of guilty rather than decisions by juries," the study said.

According to the study, plea bargaining was not always such a dominant force in the American criminal justice system. Appellate courts began seeing an increase in plea bargains around the time of the Civil War, but most were struck down as unconstitutional. However, the practice continued.

Due to mounting pressures on the legal system and over-criminalization of defendants in the early years of the 20th century, plea bargains made their way into the forefront of the criminal justice system with a "spectacular rise to power," the study said.

In 1970, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brady v. United States* that plea bargaining was an allowable form of justice. In its decision, the court said plea bargaining should only be used when evidence overwhelmingly pointed to a defendant's guilt and the defendant may benefit from the option to bargain, according to the study.

That same year, the court said in *North Carolina v. Alford* it was permissible for a defendant to enter a guilty plea while maintaining his or her innocence, if it is in their best interest.

## Symposium Brings Awareness to Restorative Justice

By San Quentin News Staff

The healing power of dialogue was the theme for a symposium held recently at San Quentin's Catholic Chapel. About 100 community members, and offenders practicing the principles of Restorative Justice, sat in roundtables discussing the harm crime does to the community.

"It's heart-warming to see the growth of Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is looking for

ways to repair harm. The victim/offender dialogue helps do this by bringing us together to tell stories. The traditional ways of justice don't do this," said sponsor Jack Dyson.

Poet and emcee Jelal Huyler's Haiku (Japanese verse) put the symposium into perspective:

Respect is simple  
Look me in the eye, speak to  
Me with open ears  
RJ facilitators say crime is  
a violation of dignity and of

relationships. RJ identifies the needs of stakeholders of crime, including, the victim, community and offended by promoting responsibility of all sides and prescribes cooperative dialogue to seek restoration of damage caused by the offender's crime.

San Quentin Restorative Justice Round Table, established in 2004, says its mission is: To advocate for restorative principles, processes and goals

with all stakeholders impacted by crime. To advocate for the teaching and implementation of restorative justice fundamentals within the general public and our faith based communities. To advocate for peace, empathy, compassion, and justice for all human beings.

"We've created a system that's outsourced harm," said Sonya, a sponsor. "When harm happens, it hurts everyone in the community."

*Jelal Huyler on-line:  
jelal.livejournal.com*

## Congressional Attention Focuses on Cost of Prison Phone Calls

By Jason McGinnis  
Contributing Writer

Two congressmen are urging the Federal Communications Commission to act quickly to curb "exorbitant" costs when prison inmates telephone relatives and friends.

"Research shows that regular contact between prisoners and family members during incarceration reduces recidivism," says a Sept. 12 letter to the FCC from Congressmen Henry A. Waxman and Bobby L. Rush.

"Experts across the political spectrum have recommended minimizing the cost of prison phone calls as a way to support strong family relationships with inmates," stated the letter to FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski.

### RATES

Families pay higher rates for calls from prisoners and, on average, a one-hour phone call from an inmate costs as much as a month of unlimited home phone service. The high rates

are discouraging and when prisoners and families lose contact, society pays the price, according to the letter.

Experts claim while state prisoners' recidivism rate is more than 67 percent and cost exceed \$58 billion annually, the greater focus should be on providing incarcerated men and women programs that will help them better re-integrate into the community after release. Reducing phone rates to encourage closer contact with family members who are incarcerated would be a positive

step toward reaching this goal, the letter states.

### RELIEF SOUGHT

A group of affected individuals sought relief from the FCC in a request known as the Wright Petition. The petition has been before the FCC since 2003. It proposes "rates that would ensure reasonable and affordable phone services for inmates and their families without short-changing states, prisons, and telephone service providers," according to the letter.

Early in September of this year, a report released by the Prison Policy Initiative concluded high prison phone rates harm society both economically and socially and recommends that the FCC approve the Write Petition and cap prison phone rates.

A reduction in prison phone rates would also improve prison safety and security by providing less incentive for incarcerated people to acquire contraband cell phones, the report concludes.

## Fiscal Cliff

By San Quentin News Staff

Funding for state and local criminal justice programs are in jeopardy if Congress and the president do not come up with an agreement to reduce the federal deficit by Dec. 31, according to economists.

Congress passed the Budget Control Act in August 2011, which raised the debt ceiling and set caps on discretionary spending for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 at levels nearly \$1 trillion lower than 2010. The bill also sought to motivate President Barack Obama and Congress to reach an agreement on overall federal spending and revenue generation.

Failure to agree on a comprehensive deficit reduction plan by

the end of the year would raise all income tax rates and mandate across-the-board cuts on government spending, the combination of which some experts say would push the economy over the "fiscal cliff" and drive the nation into recession.

The Office of Management and Budget reports that funding of all domestic discretionary programs will be reduced in 2013. The justice assistance grant programs will be hit by an 8.2 percent reduction.

Furthermore, the law would cut discretionary spending each subsequent year until 2021. Negotiations are ongoing between congressional Republicans and the White House.

The potential federal funding cuts threaten to significantly

undermine the implementation of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act, reports the Crime Report.

One of the central parts of the JJDPA law is the Jail Removal protection, which requires states to keep children under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court, out of adult jails or lockups, according to the Crime Report.

A total of \$21 million would be cut from the Juvenile Justice Programs under the federal Department of Justice, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget's report on sequestration. Other spending that has some effect on juvenile welfare, such as state grants from the federal Administration for

Children and Families, are also in line for cuts of 8.2 percent.

One California program that would be affected is the Criminal Alien Assistance Program, which assists with undocumented felons. According to the California's Governor's Budget Summary for 2012-13, an estimated 10.8 percent of inmates in the state prison system in 2011-12 will be undocumented persons, costing approximately \$936.4 million. The state, however, looks to receive only \$65.8 million in federal funding for CAAP for 2011-12 and 2012-13 — only 7 percent of the costs of dealing with the population. CAAP may be in line for further cuts if an agreement does not stay the "fiscal cliff."

State and local criminal justice organizations were surveyed by the Vera Institute of Justice to determine the impact of budget cuts that have already taken place.

Some federally funded programs have been eliminated; others have taken deep cuts, the report finds.

More than three-quarters of the 714 organizations responding to the survey reported grant funding has decreased since 2011. Nearly half (44 percent) reported a decrease of at least one-third in funding, according to Vera. More than half reported a cutback on average of 3.4 full-time employees.

Grant funding for the 2012 fiscal year had not yet been released at the time of the survey.

# Finding Redemption in Knowledge Behind Bars

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

While Michael Santos was waiting to be sentenced to a 45-year term for dealing drugs, he picked up a copy of *Treasury of Philosophy* and started learning about Socrates. He then realized the limitations of his knowledge and began taking steps in turning his life around.

Santos decided to serve his prison term with dignity and honor. He recalls telling the judge, "I have to find a way to reconcile with society."

Santos, 48, has been in community confinement since August. Nevertheless, he's still federal prisoner No. 16377004.

While incarcerated, Santos wrote seven books. His best-known book, *Inside*, was published in 2006.

## CUBAN IMMIGRANTS

He is the son of Cuban immigrants, grew up in a five-bedroom house on five acres in Lake Forest Park, a Seattle suburb. His older sister, Julie, described their family, "We were a clean-cut, athletic family. Nothing about our upbringing would lead us to deal drugs."

After graduating from high school, Santos for his father's

business and helped the company grow. He began using company funds to finance cocaine distribution. He made \$100,000 in a day, but his greediness needed millions, so he moved to Miami to work directly with suppliers.

The movies "Scarface" and "Miami Vice" influenced his behavior. As an enterprising businessman/trafficker in Miami, he drove a Porsche with a diamond-faced Rolex on one arm, and a South American wife in tight designer clothes on the other.

## THE DEA

Santos was 23 when the Drug Enforcement Administration caught up with him in 1987. He was charged with operating a continuing criminal enterprise. His partners testified against him, and the jury returned a guilty verdict on all counts.

As soon as he got to the penitentiary, his wife divorced him.

During his term Santos kept three goals stating, "One was to educate myself, one was to find a way to contribute to society, and the third was to start building a support network of law-abiding citizens who could mentor me."

He got his bachelor's degree from Mercer University, majoring in human resources management, got his master's degree

and was working on his doctorate when a warden put a stop to it by dropping his access to library books sent by the university.

No warden could stop him from writing, though Santos said some tried, through disciplinary actions and transfers as evidenced by being placed in 19 different federal prisons.

Santos set up an internet website.

When his 20th high school reunion rolled around, Carole Goodwin, who organized the event and had known Santos since the fifth grade, tracked him down through his website. Goodwin, a divorcee with two children, wrote a letter that led to a correspondence and then a romance. The couple got married in a prison visiting room and their honeymoon was at the vending machines.

## RELOCATION

Santos new wife relocated each time there was a transfer for Santos and she helped with publishing Santos' books. He has published more than a million words, and made between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in royalties and fees.

In an interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, Santos stated, "The entire journey for

me has been hyper-deliberate... It has all been in preparation for this period of time when I can emerge into society with opportunities to live as a contributing citizen. Nothing distracts me from what I need to do."

## HOPE

Stanford Law School Professor Joan Petersilia stated, "For people who are lacking in hope, he has become a messiah... There is a dearth of hope in prison, and Michael is trying to give it to them. Through his books, he created this movement, this kind of, 'You can do it too.'"

"My strategy was to minimize my contact with the prison population to avoid violence," says Santos, and it helped that he didn't snitch against his partners in crime.

Santos went from 10 minutes a day on a prison pay phone to having an iPhone in his hands. He'd never seen one before, he hadn't touched a steering wheel since 1987 or eaten with a metal fork or taken a shower without shower shoes.

After 9,135 days in federal custody, his wife, Carol, was waiting with a pizza from a local restaurant. "I'll never forget the minute that we crossed over

from the prison boundaries into the civilian world," said Carol, "It was... I'm going to cry."

The reunion with his wife was short because Santos had three hours to report to a halfway house. While in his room, he is either sleeping or exercising. He goes to bed at 8:15 in order to be up at 3 a.m., answering e-mails before he leaves to work at 6, six days a week.

If Santos follows all the rules of the halfway house, he will transition to home confinement in Petaluma, before transitioning to several years of probation. There are plans to publish more books, "Three a year," is the quota he's set.

## H.S. REUNION

Professor Petersilia has invited Santos to lecture her Stanford law school class and he's been invited to lecture out of state. But he is not allowed to leave California for a year. Regrettably, he is unable to attend the 30th reunion of his high school, but he says with a laugh, "Maybe we'll hit the 50-year reunion."

This story is attributed to the reporting of Sam Whiting, SF Chronicle.

Santos website is [www.michaelsantos.net](http://www.michaelsantos.net).

# Bill Introduced to Regulate Federal Prison Industries

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

Newly introduced federal legislation may benefit both American prisoners and private companies.

The legislation, H.R. 3634, introduced by Congressman Bill Huizenga, Republican of Michigan, would level the playing field between government-owned UNICOR, also known as Federal Prison Industries (FPI), and private companies.

Federal law has required that government agencies buy their products from UNICOR without competitive bidding. Since December 2011, the re-

laxing of federal restrictions that prevented UNICOR from selling goods or services to any customers other than federal departments and agencies, UNICOR has experienced unprecedented growth.

According to company spokesperson Julie Rozier, the circumstances under which items can now be made are very limited. "If an item is being made off-shore, we can compete for that," Rozier states.

Despite the limitations, critics complain that the changes have amounted to unfair competition because the prisoners earn as little as 23 cents to \$1.15 an hour for their labor

and UNICOR is not subject to the same workplace rules or minimum salaries as private companies.

Huizenga's bill would help level the playing field by making UNICOR subject to the same rules and costs as private companies.

Federal prisoners would also benefit by their salaries being raised to the minimum wage, over time.

According to Huizenga, support for the bill has been "very bipartisan," and has some 20 co-sponsors that include both Republicans and Democrats.

The legislation would not affect state prisons.

# New Approach to Realignment

Instead of building more jail beds, some Contra Costa County officials and concerned citizens say they want to spend realignment funds to create a system that helps offenders successfully return to their communities, reports the community-based news publication Richmond Confidential.

The county's Community Corrections Partnership, which oversees the \$19 million in prison realignment funds from the state, has agreed, announcing they would postpone a decision on jail expansion until they have researched alternatives to incarceration that could reduce jail

overcrowding and high recidivism rates.

"This has been an extraordinary meeting, and I hope everyone realizes what a tribute to democracy this whole process has been," California State Senator Loni Hancock said in a press release. "I am in awe of you guys, I'm in awe of this community and the testimony you've given."

## THE SHIFT

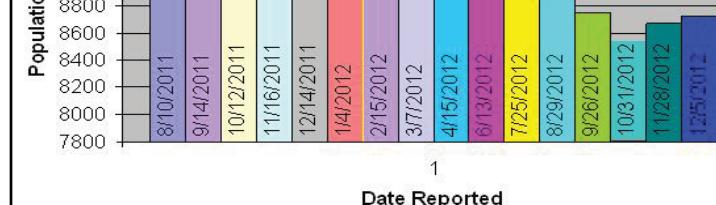
Because realignment shifts offenders from doing time in state prison to county jails, Contra Costa County officials are tasked with managing a grow-

ing number of long-term detainees in its jails.

Contra Costa County Sheriff David Livingston wanted to use the realignment funding to expand the West County Detention Facility with a 150-bed dormitory. He has now asked the CCP to reevaluate the proposal in March, after forming a subcommittee to investigate needed services, bail reform, and a one-stop center for services.

Police Chief Chris Magnus agreed, saying, "I'm not ready to vote for jail expansion at this meeting."

—Ron Koehler



# Protestant Dinner Honors Volunteers

Local churches and San Quentin parishioners come together as a community

By Ron Koehler  
Staff Writer

The pews were gone in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel. The tables were set in red and green. Dinner was served for more than 300 invited guests and prisoners.

Chaplain Mardi Jackson invited volunteers from more than 20 churches who hold programs for prisoners. The feast, prepared by John "Yah-Ya" Parrett, included chicken, roast beef, turkey, vegetables, mashed potatoes, candied yams, macaroni and cheese, salad and apple pie with ice cream.

One of the volunteers was Randy Fischback from Hillside Covenant Church in Walnut Creek. In an interview he said he had also volunteered at Angola

prison in Louisiana. That program, through Malachi Dads, helped reunite fathers, sons, brothers, and families.

He said the opportunity allowed him to witness when people with unfortunate and difficult lives make "the conscious decision to do right in their lives by following Christ, or simply realizing that they should treat others like they want to be treated as long as no one is harmed."

He said the Angola experience was so successful that he wanted to use the same ideas for San Quentin, which is much closer to his home in Walnut Creek.

Fischback said those who had done the greatest misdeeds had the great advantage of learning the most through their personal transformation, he said.

## EDITORIAL

# Changes in the Criminal Justice System Welcomed



File Photo

**By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-In-Chief**

There are numerous injustices in the criminal justice system, and California voters agreed that the Three Strikes Law was one of those injustices. They fixed part of the problem by amending that law on Nov. 6, but it's just one small step.

"Proposition 36 sends a powerful message to policymakers in California and across the country that taxpayers are ready for a new direction in criminal justice," said Adam Gelb, director of the Pew Center on the States' Public Safety Performance Project.

An example of this draconian Three Strikes Law is Sergio Ayala, who was freed after spending 18 years in prison for

stealing a leaf blower with an estimated value of \$150. It cost the state an estimated \$1-million to keep him incarcerated.

"States that have already made some changes to their sentencing laws may be inspired to take a second look, and states that haven't made significant changes yet may start," Gelb commented.

The Ayala story begins on Feb. 2, 1995 when he was arrested in San Diego County for burglary in the first degree. At his second court appearance, the public defenders office told him he was also being charged with petty thief with a prior.

Ayala was now facing 37 years to life for burglary and 25-to-life for the petty thief with a prior, a total of 62 years to life.

Three strikes was in its early stages and people in jails still did not believe they could get life for non-violent crimes. Ayala says he was a drug addict and didn't understand how he could receive such a long sentence.

He knew he was in a battle for his life but didn't know what to do, especially with the public defenders office defending him. Like most people in jails, he didn't have the money to pay for his own attorney. "I stole to sup-

port my habit, then they gave me a \$1-million bail. It just doesn't make any sense."

He was offered a deal for 18 years with the possibility of parole after serving 85 percent. The public defenders office told him he should take the deal, and if he didn't, he would be given 62-to-life. He was given two days to make up his mind.

By his next court appearance, a new district attorney was assigned to his case. The previous DA was removed because his boss did not approve of the deal. With the deal off the table, Ayala watched others plead guilty to avoid the long sentences, but still receiving 25-to-life.

Ayala admits he was no saint, because of his addiction. His arrest history goes back to 1977.

He's happy that he is going home. His family has been very supportive, especially his kids. He says while in prison he learned to be a better person, especially after he came to San Quentin, where rehabilitation programs helped him gain insight in his life. He just wishes inmates in other prisons had the same opportunities as the men in San Quentin.

As for the future, he plans to continue with his art work and hopes to start his own business.

## Cultivating Calm

Reaping benefits from the practice of Yoga

**By Phoeun You  
Contributing Writer**

Hundreds of San Quentin prisoners have learned new ways of controlling their mind and body, thanks to Yoga class taught for the past 11 years by James Fox.

They benefited from the Yoga practice, said Fox. Yoga is the "union of the mental emotional and physical aspects of yourself," explained Fox, a certified instructor with 25 years Yoga experience.

He recently began a yoga class for veterans in the ARC Module on Thursday mornings. He has also facilitated VOEG classes and anger management classes.

Fox said that Yoga adds a dimension to those groups. "Psychological and emotional work is a lifelong process that helps you heal the past so you can live in the present. But healing also needs to be integrated in the body."

He refers to studies on post traumatic stress examining how returning veterans and others people deal with trauma in their lives. "The body keeps score. If we experience trauma and do not discharge the trauma, it has a way of settling into a hidden place in our hearts and bodies. The trauma creates disharmony in our mind/heart/body systems. These systems cannot be separated," he explains. Through Yoga, our bodies can release trauma, said Fox.

Fox and Jacques Verduin, director of the Insight Out Project, plus Kathy Harris, facilitator of The Work, led an All-Day Yoga and Meditation retreat in the San Quentin Gym on Dec. 8.

Fox pointed out that the benefits of Yoga included calmness in our minds, flexibility in our bodies and developing a capacity to "interrupt reactive behaviors. Yoga helps time slow down and teaches self-awareness of what happens in each moment so you have a choice," said Fox.

Stephen Yair Liebb, a participant in the Yoga/Meditation Retreat and a student in Fox's weekly yoga class, stated, "Yoga is hope. Yoga enables me to see beyond limitations to what is possible in myself and in others. Movements that once seemed impossible are achievable after patient practice. I can face the impossible calmly, breath by breath through Yoga."

A member of the Thursday morning Yoga Class, Arnulfo T. Garcia said, "When I first started yoga, I thought it was fake, until I was going through the process. I realized eight months later the benefits it brought to my health and focus."

Fox is the author of "Yoga: A Path for Healing and Recovery," published by the Prison Yoga Project. He is instrumental in bringing Yoga programs to prisons in the United States and other countries.

—Stephen Yair Liebb contributed to this article.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Book's Compelling Description Of Government Abuse Still Timely

**By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor**

It has been nearly three decades since Isabel Allende's rebellious novel *Of Love and Shadows* brought light to "the disappeared" — Chilean insurgents who went missing at the hands of their repressive government.

*Of Love and Shadows* intimately places readers into lives of witnesses and victims of power who fell into "the hands of the dregs of humanity."

The disappearance of insurgents orchestrated by Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet in the 1980s set the stage for this tale. The desire to unearth atrocities suffered by the families of "the disappeared" pressed the novel's main characters into action.

Although Irene Beltran, a journalist, and Francisco Leal, her photographer, come from middle-class families, their social backgrounds are completely different. Irene is engaged to a military man, and her family has

a vested interest in maintaining the country's status quo. Francisco comes from a lineage exiled from Spain, so he has rebellion in his blood. The dichotomy struck between the characters' lives creates the ideal atmosphere for a Shakespearean love story, which allows Allende to simultaneously scrutinize Chilean political affairs in the 1980s.

#### A Close Read

After Irene and Francisco go to the city morgue looking for the body of a "disappeared," they discover the magnitude of the brutality inflicted on ordinary citizens.

"An air of hopelessness pervaded the building, and all who worked there were contaminated by indifference, their capacity for compassion drained. The attendants performed their duties handling death like banal merchandise; they lived so close to the dead that they had forgotten life," Allende writes.

Readers become aware of the dismay and sadness penetrating

the backdrop in "Of Love and Shadows." In the face of death and destruction, Allende creates the ideal template for love as she writes:

"After they left the Morgue, Francisco felt that only the thick green of the park, the moist earth, and the smell of humus could help Irene forget the silent cries of all those dead ... The passage of time, the southern breeze, the murmuring water, the wild canaries, the earth fragrances slowly brought them back to reality."

Through the romance that grows between Irene and Francisco, Allende argues that people with traditional beliefs can not only get along with those who are progressive, they can trust and care for one another.

Twenty-eight years after "Of Love and Shadows" hit the bookshelves, the tender love shared by Irene and Francisco has not lost its ability to convey a criticism still relevant today.

Allende has written 19 novels, most recently publishing "Máya's Notebook" in 2011.

## Time in San Quentin Remains Frozen

For decades, time remains unchanged

**By Jose Camacho  
Journalism Guild Writer**

San Quentin's Lower Yard gym has a three and a half square foot clock atop it. However, since 1982, it has been frozen at 5:44. Nobody knows if it stopped ticking at dawn or dusk.

"The yard clock is frozen in time—not reflecting the spirit of San Quentin's population," said prisoner Rudy Morales. "Collectively, we need to help that clock breathe life into its brass lungs."

The San Quentin administration says getting the clock fixed comes down to a money issue and suggested if prisoners want the clock fixed, donations could be made for that purpose.

"The San Quentin inmates have shifted and metamorphosed towards positive programming. Therefore, the time suspended yard clock is not consistent of this positive evolution. Now we want the clock to depict and reflect what San Quentin is about," said inmate Pedro Espinal.

Several prisoners expressed a desire to fix the clock. Here are a few of their quotes:

"There was a time when S.Q. had a grimy reputation," said an anonymous inmate. "Now San Quentin has received a facelift through positive programming as a result of Patten University Project college classes, self-help programs, and a varied and diverse sports programs," said inmate Eddie Carrillo.

"Together, let's unfreeze the yard clock by writing poems, letters to people that will take notice of our concern of getting that clock synchronized to the positive spirit embracement of the new S.Q. inmate and get that old tic-ticker's heartbeat pulsating again," said inmate Carlos.

"I remember working in the gym in the '80s and walking outside the gym to see what time it was. The clock had its problems throughout the years. I can't remember when it went out for good," said Correctional Officer Jackson.

"This clock is forever telling me that I can't advance! That's a lie because I'm progressing in all areas of my capacity," said an inmate who would appreciate a functioning clock.

## Asked On The Line

# Holiday Season Stimulates Good Memories

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

"If you could go back in time and repeat any winter holiday season, how old are you again? Who are you with? Where are you?"

"Asked on the Line" asked these questions of 30 men in blue and outside volunteers and staff from the Prison University Project (PUP), the San Quentin TRUST, the GED Program, and Free To Succeed.

Some had to think about it, but many replied right away as they shared their most memorable winter holiday and laughed.

**1. LUCASVILLE, Ohio** – Donald Palmer was executed Sept. 20 for killing two men 23 years ago, "I want you to know I've carried you in my heart for years and years," Palmer, 47, said to the victim's families. His last words reported by The Associated Press: "I'm so sorry for what I took from you...I pray you have good lives now."

**2. LOS ANGELES** – America's War on Drugs is a failure, said actor Brad Pitt after watching a documentary about people affected by harsh drug laws, according to The Los Angeles Times. The documentary, "The House I live In," by Eugene Jarecki, won the Grand Jury Prize last January at the Sundance Film Festival.

**3. SACRAMENTO** – Prison officials have announced new guidelines for handling 3,100 prisoners held in isolation. The new rules allow isolated prisoners more privileges, give them incentives to leave gangs, and let them get out of the isolation units in three to four years—instead of six—if they behave and participate in rehabilitation programs.

**4. CANON CITY, Colo.** – State officials are spending \$208 million on a newly built prison that is not scheduled to house prisoners, according to the Denver Post. The prison known as Centennial South consists of 948 solitary confinement cells.

**5. HARTFORD, Conn.** – Newly released prisoners are having a hard time finding housing and jobs, according to The Associated Press. State officials say of the more than 1,500 offenders released each month, about 79 percent are rearrested within five years. "If you make it virtually impossible for someone to get a job, then you make it a virtual certainty that they're going to commit more crimes," said Michael Lawlor, a high-ranking state official. "If you don't have a place to live, it makes it more likely."

**6. WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled

Jose Camacho would be 7 years old again, with his family at a relative's house in Mexico. Jeff Dukes, Louie Calvin and John Neblett would each be 5 again. Dukes would be in New Jersey, Calvin in Southern California, and Neblett would be at "92<sup>nd</sup> Street, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Manhattan."

Chris Scull would be 9 again with his family in Los Angeles, Jay Smith would be 10 again at home with his father, Jeff Long would be 8 again with his grandpa in Colorado, and both Daniel Jackson and Juan Haines would be 18 years old again. Jackson would be with his wife and kids

in San Mateo, Calif., and Haines would be with his family in Atlantic City, N.J. Ron Moore would be 7 and with his mother on a train. "We were on the train on our way to Texas. While going through Arizona, at night, she gave me my Christmas gift to open before we got there."

Among volunteers and staff, PUP volunteer Jennifer Lyons and GED tutor Kony Kim would both be 4 again. Lyons would be with her older sister at her grandparent's home in Washington and Kim would be with her parents in Escondido, Calif. "I remember this was before they burst my bubble and told me that

Santa Clause wasn't real!" said Kony.

PUP tutors Jackie Nelson, Preeya Khanna and Karen Lovaas would be 7 again and with their parents. Jackie would be in Chicago, Preeya Khanna would be in Boston, and Karen Lovaas would be in College Park, Md.

Mary Donovan said she would be 5 again with her parents. "I remember moving back to the U.S. from Australia with my mom to reunite with my dad. It was a happy, but awkward experience."

Debra Winn, chief sponsor of San Quentin TRUST, would be

15 again at her parent's house. "The whole family would be there. I am talking about the whole clan," said Winn.

Joe Spinelli, a tutor with Free to Succeed, would be in his 30s with his wife and children, along with both of their parents, and his favorite aunt. "It was at my house in San Anselmo. I remember that we had a very, very nice Christmas."

PUP tutor Maria Joseph would be 35 again with her kids when they were living in an old house. "I was with my kids and we were dancing and putting on shows," said Joseph.

came the 14th person executed in Texas this year, according to The Associated Press. Hernandez was convicted of raping, robbing and killing Rosa Maria Rosado, 37, after abducting her from a San Antonio bus stop 11 years ago. Hernandez, 41, told a family member he was "sorry for putting you through all this" as his final statement, the AP reports.

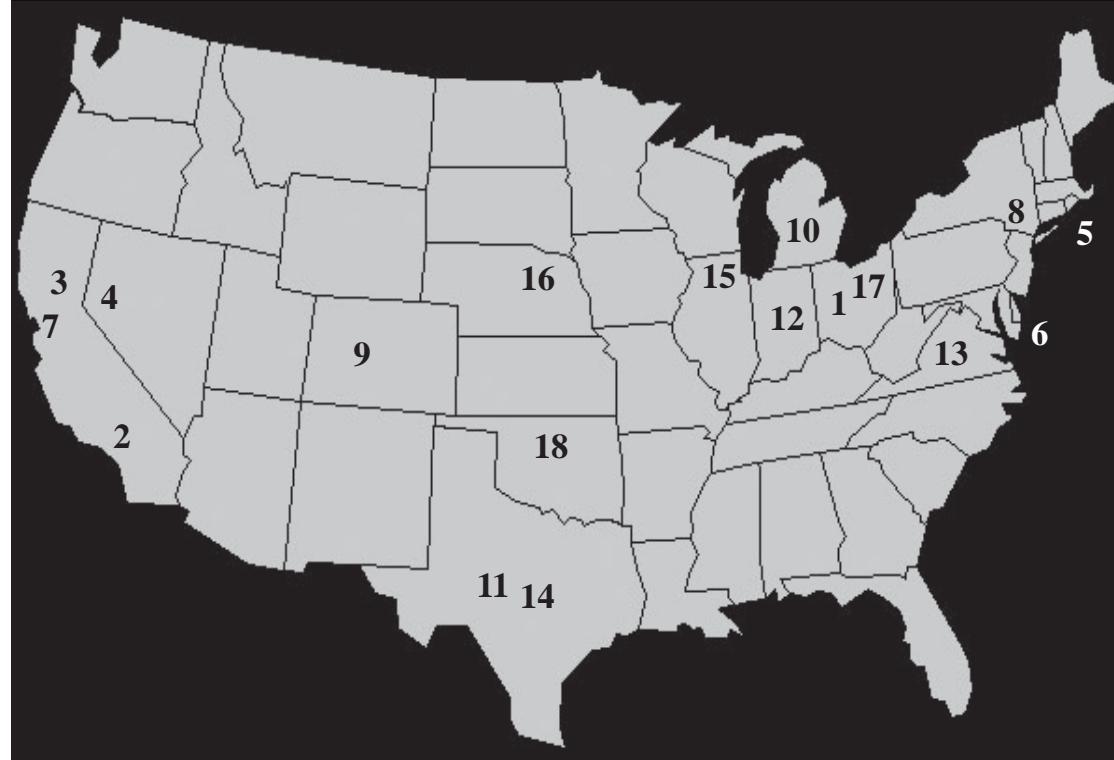
**15. CHICAGO** – After 15 years in prison, murder charges were dropped against Alprentiss Nash, 37. He was sentenced to 80 years in prison in connection with the 1995 death of a man on Chicago's South Side. "The decision to vacate this conviction comes as a result of a comprehensive investigation into the facts of this case," said Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez. "Based upon the new DNA evidence and the collective results of our investigation, it is my assessment that we do not have the evidence that is required to sustain this murder charge," she added.

**16. OMAHA, Neb.** – Two people were awarded \$800,000 to settle wrongful conviction cases against them. Ada JoAnn Taylor and James Dean sued the state for \$500,000 each for bogus convictions of rape and murder. A county judge agreed and awarded \$500,000 to Taylor, acknowledging she spent nearly 20 years incarcerated. Dean, who spent five and a half years in prison, was awarded \$300,000.

**17. LUCASVILLE, Ohio** – State officials put to death its 49th person since resuming executions in 1999. Brett Hartman continued to claim his innocence for the 1997 murder of Winda Snipes, reports The Associated Press. "I'm good. Let's roll," were his final words.

**18. McALESTER, Okla.** – Garry Thomas Allen, 56, was executed Nov 6 for the 1986 killing of his fiancée, Lawanna Gail Titsworth, 24. His attorneys had argued that Allen shouldn't be put to death because he was insane and couldn't understand the judgment against him.

## News Briefs



that an Illinois law that would prevent the taping of police in the line of duty is unconstitutional because it violates free speech, according to the Associated Press.

**7. SAN FRANCISCO** – In a 2-1 ruling, a Death Row prisoner's conviction was overturned by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The court ruled John Culver's ability to present a defense was violated. Culver's public defender obtained a sworn statement from another man saying he committed the murder but the trial judge barred the testimony.

**8. NEW YORK** – A man who spent the last 11 years in prison has been awarded \$2 million after his conviction was overturned. Michael Clancy was arrested in 1997 for murder and sentenced to 25 years to life. Clancy was released in 2008 after an informant told police he was at the scene when someone else did the killing. Another informant subsequently confirmed his innocence.

**9. FLORENCE, Colo.** – A lawsuit claiming federal prison

officials transfer mentally ill prisoners to the Supermax facility, where they stop treating their illnesses, has prompted steps to improve their treatment, according to the Denver Post.

**10. DETROIT** – A judge has freed a man who spent almost 10 years in prison after a prosecutor requested that the rape case against him be dropped. From the time when James Grissom, 54, was picked out of a photo line-up in 2002, he consistently declared his innocence, according to The Associated Press. Even though there was no physical evidence or witnesses, he was convicted of the charges and sentenced to at least 15 years in prison. After the trial, officials learned the alleged victim had lied about as many as nine assaults in California, the AP reports.

**11. HUNTSVILLE, Texas** – The execution of a 33-year-old prisoner was stopped two and a half hours before being taken to the death chamber. The U.S. Supreme Court said the execution was stopped so that the court could review

the case. Anthony Haynes was scheduled to be executed for killing police Sgt. Kent Kincaid, 40, while he was driving with his wife.

**12. FORT WAYNE, Ind.** – A judge frustrated over the state's high recidivism rate has received a national award for a program aimed to reduce the number of released offenders returning to prison, according to The Associated Press. Chief Justice John Roberts presented Allen County Superior Court Judge John Surbeck with the 17th National Center for State Courts' Williams Rehnquist award.

**13. JARRATT, Va.** – Johnathon Montgomery was released from prison four years after the woman who accused him of rape said she lied about the incident. Gov. Robert McDonnell telephoned Montgomery, apologized to him, and granted him a conditional pardon, the Newport News Daily Press reported. "It feels awesome," Montgomery said regarding his release. "It's a great feeling. ...You don't know what is lost until you've lost it."

**14. HUNTSVILLE, Texas** – Ramon Torres Hernandez be-

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!



Mrs. Park entered the market and asked the cashier, Mr. Kim, to give her change for a one dollar bill. Mr. Kim said, "I can not give you change with the coins I have in the register. Mrs. Park then asked if she could get change of a half dollar. Mr. Kim said, "I don't have the coins to give you change for a half dollar or even for a quarter, dime or nickel." Mrs. Park then asked, "Do you have any coins in the register at all?" Mr. Kim answered, "Yes. I have \$1.15 in coins." What were the coins that Mr. Kim had in the register?

**The answer to last month's puzzle is:** 16 pieces

Congratulations to: E. Vick and Mike Tyler for winning last month's puzzle.

Congratulations to: Tijue McGhee, A. Sully, for correctly answering last month's puzzle.

The two winners were picked for a hat containing all the winning answers.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

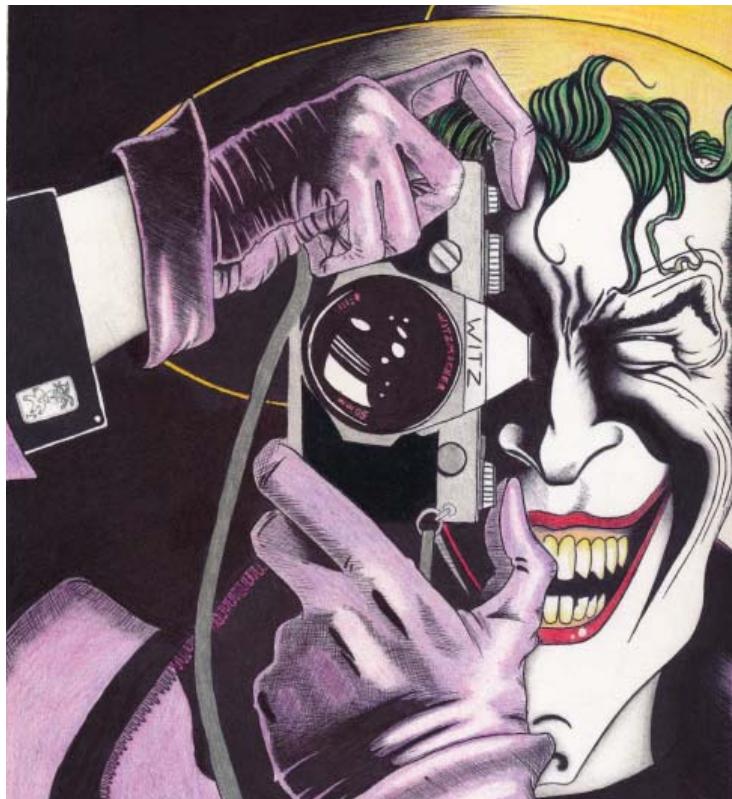
First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

*Puzzle By Binh Vo*



Artwork by Anthony

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**Sept. 17, 1971**—Supervisor of Vocational Instruction L.E. Ecke retires after 22 years at San Quentin.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—Factory Clerk Robert L. Higgs was revived by Sewage Plant Supervisor Jack Coughlin and E.R. Mickelson of the plumbing shop after collapsing from smoke inhalation caused by an apparent arson fire in the San Quentin mattress factory.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—A group of UCLA law students toured San Quentin in preparation for an experimental program to determine whether or not legal aid programs could be instituted in California prisons.

**Sept. 17, 1971**—San Quentin's Jets defeat the Chargers by a margin of 22-0 in the prison's intramural football league.

**Sept. 24, 1971**—The San Quentin News resumes operation after three weeks, with the Sept. 17 issue, following an escape attempt on Aug. 21 that left six men dead and several others wounded.

**Sept. 24, 1971**—The Adult Authority prints a clarification of negative rumors regarding hearings by certain board members.

**Oct. 1, 1971**—San Quentin Warden L.S. Nelson announced several staff changes and reassignments.

## Snippets

Egg nog is a drink consisting of eggs beaten with sugar, milk or cream, nutmeg, and sometimes containing an alcoholic beverage.

Government taxes were issued against liquor producers in the 1790s to help relieve the national debt. Opposition to the tax stirred what is now known as the Whiskey Rebellion.

Gold nuggets were first discovered in California on January 24, 1848, in the American River, by Lumberman James Marshall.

Norwegians used to say the term "workmen in my head" to describe a hangover. Germans said, "wailing of cats", French, "woody mouth", and Swedish, "pain in the roots of my hair."

On April 7, 1933, beer became the first legal alcoholic drink to become available after Prohibition. Many other alcoholic drinks became legal December 5, 1933.

Garnished with a celery stalk, 1 shot of vodka, tomato juice, a pinch of celery salt and ground black pepper, a dash of Tabasco, 2-4 dashes Worcester sauce, 1/2 tsp horseradish, and a dash of lemon or lime. This is how, according to the New York school of bartending, the Bloody Mary is made.



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda

**THE THINGS THEY CARRIED** (By Tim O'Brien) *Enthralling story collection of soldiers in Vietnam, mixing everyday mudane with poetic poignancy to evoke moving images in a terrible war.*



**THE CRIMSON PETAL AND THE WHITE** (By Michel Faber) *Victorian-era prostitute excels while she pens horrifying revenge fantasies in her spare time in this somewhat overlong work.*



**THE CRUCIBLE** (By Arthur Miller) *Religious bigotry drunk with hysterical lies force spineless government to persecute the innocent in this classic play.*



**THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY** (By Henry James) *"Smart" girl's entrancing journey from choosing badly to ending hauntingly.*



**OVER HEXED** (By Vicki Lewis Thomson) *Complications ensue when two witches are "sentenced" to assisting the love lives of morals.*

RATINGS: Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one: Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

	2				3			
6			2			9		
	8	5		1		6		
9			6	2	5			
		3			4			8
	5							
		7		5	6	1		
3		7				5	4	
		2				7		

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

9	2	1	7	4	3	6	5	8
8	4	5	1	9	6	3	7	2
6	7	3	8	5	2	4	9	1
1	3	9	5	8	7	2	4	6
7	6	8	4	2	1	9	3	5
2	5	4	3	6	9	8	1	7
5	9	6	2	1	4	7	8	3
3	8	2	9	7	5	1	6	4
4	1	7	6	3	8	5	2	9

## CORRECTION

It was reported in the November edition on page 8 that Louis Hunter won the marathon. The actual winner was Stephen Yair Liebb who finished the race in 3:59:01.





# 2013

San Quentin  
State Prison  
1852-2013

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5					1	2				1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28 M. L. King Jr.	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Cesar Chavez Day	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4		1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31		23 30	24	25	26	27	28	29
JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Independence Day	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							DECEMBER						